PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES

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HOUSE OF COMMONS

OFFICIAL REPORT

FOURTH SESSION OF THE FIFTY-FOURTH PARLIAMENT
OF THE UNITED KINGDOM OF GREAT BRITAIN
AND NORTHERN IRELAND
FIFTY-EIGHTH YEAR OF THE REIGN OF
HER MAJESTY QUEEN ELIZABETH II

SESSION 2008–2009

COMPRISING PERIOD
23 March 2009—2 April 2009

HER MAJESTY'S GOVERNMENT

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(FORMED BY THE RT. HON. GORDON BROWN, MP, JUNE 2007)

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23 March 2009

Written Ministerial Statements

Monday 23 March 2009

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Business Rates

The Minister for Local Government (John Healey): Following the motion "to regret that the Non-Domestic Rating (Collection and Enforcement) (Local Lists) (Amendment) (England) Regulations 2009 (SI 2009/204), laid before the House on 10 February, will not prevent several port companies from becoming insolvent", the Government are placing their response on record.

A number of debates have taken place this year with reference to the occupiers of the properties affected by the ratings review of ports. The Government have listened carefully to the concerns put forward by the affected occupiers who, as a consequence of being separately assessed for rates from 1 April 2005 are in receipt of unexpected and significant backdated rate bills.

In the current economic conditions, the Government have constantly emphasised that they are concerned about the impact of significant and unexpected backdated rates liability on businesses. The ratings system has to be fair and equitable to all, and there is not a legislative solution for waiving tax liability which does not confer a disadvantage among other rate payers who have paid the rates that are legally established and due.

However, we believe, in the current economic circumstances, that there is a general case to assist all businesses liable to receive large, unexpected backdated bills that have to be paid immediately, as is the case with a number of companies, including some port-based businesses across the UK.

Following the Chancellor's announcement in the pre-Budget report, therefore, the Government have put in place an unprecedented scheme to help all businesses, which may include some occupiers of ports, to pay significant and unexpected backdated rates liabilities over a period of eight years.

The Valuation Office Agency have also put in place special fast-track arrangements for ratepayers with backdated bills who want to question or challenge their assessment following the ports review, and will give priority attention to these cases at all stages.

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Food and Environment Research Agency

The Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Hilary Benn): I am pleased to announce that The Food and Environment Research Agency (FERA) will vest on 1 April 2009 as an executive agency of DEFRA.

FERA brings together the Central Science Laboratory (CSL), the UK Government Decontamination Service (GDS) the Plant Health and Seeds Inspectorate (PHSI), Plant Varieties and Seeds Division (PVS) and Plant Health Division (PHD). It has a starting complement of 900 staff and will have an annual turnover of £72 million.

FERA's purpose is to provide robust evidence, rigorous analysis and professional advice, underpinned by world class research, to help DEFRA, other Government Departments and other stakeholders support and develop a sustainable and secure food chain, and a healthy natural environment and protect the global community from deliberate chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear (CBRN) or major accidental hazard material (HazMat) incidents.

As an executive agency of DEFRA, FERA plays an important role in helping to deliver the Department's strategic priorities. These are to:

Secure a healthy natural environment for us all and deal with environmental risks;

Promote a sustainable, low-carbon and resource-efficient economy; and

Ensure a thriving farming sector and a sustainable, healthy and secure food supply.

It provides operational policy and regulation in support of these priorities, particularly in respect of plant and bee health, crop varieties and seeds. In addition, it undertakes and delivers high quality support and input into other regulatory issues relevant to its area of responsibility. FERA has responsibility to support Government in responding to and recovering from emergency situations, by providing relevant capability, scientific evidence, analysis and advice. Including the GDS in FERA enables a wider breadth and coherence of service offering to Government, and will enhance the national emergency response and recovery capability and UK resilience. It will also strengthen the science capability underpinning GDS functions and areas of expertise. FERA also provides research and development, advice and services to other public and private sector organisations on a commercial basis. The agency will have a remit to develop wider market opportunities alongside its work for Government. This will build on the skills that underpin its sustainable future and will maximize the value to the taxpayer of its unique knowledge and facilities.

FERA will work closely with other Government Departments and contribute to their PSAs. For example:

Climate change (Department for Energy and Climate Change).

Regional economic performance (Department for Business Enterprise and Regulatory Reform).

International poverty reduction and achieving MDGs (Department for International Development).

Counter-terrorism (Home Office).

Safer communities (Home Office).

Innovation and skills (Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills).

Health and well-being (Department of Health).

Food safety, choice and healthy eating—support for the Food Standards Agency (FSA) strategic priorities.

Environment, sustainability and rural affairs (Welsh Assembly Government).

The agency will continue CSL's established remit in supporting government and industry food security objectives. Through its scientific expertise FERA:

is recognised both nationally and internationally in the areas of food chain safety and quality, and food security. It is part of a national network of laboratories specifically established to respond to CBRN incidents, which might include malicious/accidental food contamination, and has national status as the UK National Reference Laboratory for the FSA and Veterinary Medicines Directorate (VMD) for specific chemical analyses in food including dioxins, mycotoxins, trace elements and pesticides;

has a dedicated food safety and quality operation, which provides scientific capacity, capability and advice to underpin the food-related objectives of DEFRA, the FSA, Pesticides Safety Directorate (PSD), VMD and other industry, and international stakeholders; and

has significant international influence with experts on European Food Safety Association (EFSA) panels, and is also heavily involved in European food research programmes. For example the agency is leading a major EU research project called TRACE on the traceability and authenticity of food. (More information at www.trace.eu.org/menu/project/)

FERA will continue to deliver the business functions and services that have been provided by its constituent parts. For example it will provide the following services to the agricultural and horticultural industries:

Plant clinic services—global pest and disease identification services.

LIAISON—contains information on registered agrochemical products for all UK crops.

IENICA—interactive European network for industrial crops and their applications.

BeeBase—information for beekeepers.

Certification schemes for seeds and propagating material.

Registration and breeders rights schemes for new plant varieties.

Proficiency testing schemes—FERA operates several schemes which provide the food, water, environment and plant health industries with assessments of the technical performance of their analysis laboratories.

Details of all its services are available on FERA's website at: http://services.csl.gov.uk/fera

In the short term stakeholders should not be affected by the formation of FERA and will receive the same professional services they currently enjoy. As the new agency develops I expect to see stakeholders benefit from improved services in the following areas:

stakeholders have access to a "one-stop" service in support of sustainable agriculture and food safety;

scope for a more efficient and integrated approach to EU legislation, and therefore simpler, more cost-effective regulation;

co-location of policy and scientific databases, improved risk assessment, more seamless transfer of diagnostic results through integration of databases resulting in more rapid management action, and better, faster disease control at lower cost;

development of service provision in international consultancy, advice and training for the PVS and PHSI elements of the new agency as a result of greater critical mass and collaboration with CSL where expertise in these markets already exists; and

more cohesive approach to supporting and informing the central Government approach to developing CBRN related policies.

FERA will operate under the net control accounting regime. As an on-vote agency, FERA will be included within the annual report and consolidated accounts for DEFRA. It will have an annual turnover of £72 million. This includes the recently announced new funding for bee health of £4.3 million. FERA will be audited by the Auditor and Comptroller General and will produce its own annual report and accounts.

I have set the Food and Environment Research Agency the following performance targets for 2009-10:

Regulation, Policy and Risk

To develop plant variety and seed, and plant and bee health policies in order to help achieve the Government's strategic priorities. To target activities, which reduce risks to commercial crop production and environment, assist trade facilitation and reduce regulatory burdens in accordance with Hampton principles.

Research and Assurance

To deliver outputs from applied research and monitoring/surveillance to deadline, which meet agreed quality standards and answer questions, and present them in a way that is useful to policy makers and other delivery bodies. To convert research outputs into innovative products and services.

To raise audit, risk management, security and quality standards and expectations. To deliver key outcomes against the 2006 science audit implementation.

Response and Recovery

To influence and deliver emergency response and recovery strategies and practical capability across the public sector, including ongoing assessment of supplier capability and capacity.

Sustainability

To consolidate the implementation of FERA, ensuring that stakeholders are fully informed of progress, and influence over and satisfaction levels for customers raised. To ensure that resources, including site accommodation and collaborative working, are maximised to best potential and meet benefits' realisation and sustainability targets.

To recover the full economic costs of the agency's services from Government Departments, agencies and external customers, ensuring delivery of efficiency targets.

Further details of FERA's role and responsibilities are given in its corporate documents: the Framework Document, the Strategic Direction and Corporate Plan 2009-10 to 2011-12, and the Business Plan 2009-10. Copies of which will be placed in the Libraries of the House and will be published on the agency's website at:

http://services.csl.gov.uk

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

Iraq (Locally-Employed Staff)

The Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs (David Miliband): In my statements of 9 and 30 October 2007, (*Official Report*, 9 October columns 27-28WS and 30 October columns 30-33 WS), I gave details of the ex gratia assistance to be provided to Iraqi staff working for our armed forces and civilian missions in Iraq. I also said that we may review the eligibility criteria in the light of experience.

Together with my right hon. Friends the Secretaries of State for Home Affairs, Defence and International Development, I have taken stock of the operation of the scheme to date.

The scheme distinguishes between Iraqi staff employed on or after 8 August 2007 ("serving staff") and staff whose employment terminated on or before 7 August 2007 ("former staff"). Both serving and former staff are entitled to apply for a financial package, or to express an interest in resettlement to the UK.

Eligible serving staff as defined under the scheme are entitled to apply for a financial package or for exceptional leave to enter the UK directly, outside the immigration rules. In total, we have received applications from over 500 serving staff of whom some 400 have been assessed as eligible. Of these some 250 have chosen the financial package and the remainder have chosen resettlement to the UK. To date, 15 principal applicants and 32 dependants have been resettled; a further 71 principal applicants and 126 dependants have been cleared to travel; and applications are being considered from 39 principal applicants and 65 dependants.

Eligible former staff as defined under the scheme are entitled to apply for a financial package or for resettlement to the UK under the Gateway Protection programme, within which up to 600 places have been allocated for staff and their dependants. To date, over 150 former staff and their dependants have been resettled under Gateway; a further 110 former staff and their dependants have been accepted and will travel shortly. The number of new applications is diminishing and we remain on target to meet our commitment to resettle up to 600 eligible former staff and dependants, by the end of March 2010.

Since the introduction of the scheme, we have actively monitored and improved arrangements for processing Gateway cases. Our embassy in the designated third country, which has been reinforced for this purpose with a dedicated staff member, has worked closely with the local authorities and the UN High Commissioner for Refugees to develop and refine procedures for facilitating the timely and orderly movement of former staff and dependants from Iraq, and to offer assistance and advice on arrival. In 2008, we changed the system for providing financial support available to those undergoing Gateway screening in order to ensure that they do not suffer financial hardship while in the third country. Rather than a lump sum subsistence payment, each principal applicant receives a subsistence payment, plus 10 per cent. of that sum for each dependant to a limit of five dependants, for each month spent in that country.

We have concluded that the categories of staff able to apply for the assistance under the scheme, and the eligibility criteria set out in my statements of October 2007 remain valid and should therefore be maintained without change. Any set of objective criteria will always lead to instances where individual applicants fall outside their scope. But we continue to believe that the rationale for these criteria remains valid: allowing us to focus assistance on those staff who have had the closest and most sustained association with us, in circumstances which we judge to be uniquely difficult. We have also taken the view in the light of our experience of implementing the scheme that these objective criteria represent the fairest and most practical way of doing this.

Staff who left our employment on or before 7 August 2007 have now had around 16 months to decide whether to apply for the scheme. As a result of this and in view of the declining rate of applications, we consider that the time is right to close the scheme to new applications from former staff. We need to allocate resources effectively in support of the operation of the scheme, particularly as we draw closer to the draw down of UK forces from Iraq, as set out by my right hon. Friend the Prime Minister in his statement of 18 December 2008, *Official Report*, columns 1233-5. New applications from former staff for both financial and resettlement benefits under the scheme will cease to be accepted from 1200 Arabian standard time on 19 May 2009. Appeals against decisions will continue to be considered until 30 June 2009. We shall work with our missions in Iraq to ensure that full publicity is given to the closure of this scheme in the local media.

Employing Departments and the Home Office are continuing to review the future of the elements of the scheme that apply to serving staff, and I shall make a further statement on this at a future date.

During my recent visit to Iraq I was greatly impressed by the continued dedication and commitment demonstrated across the board by our Iraqi staff. We could not have made our contribution to the rebuilding of Iraq without their service and, in some cases, sacrifice. I would like to take this opportunity in the House to thank our Iraqi staff for the continued dedicated service they provide to our armed services and civilian missions in Iraq. The scheme for assistance is designed to reflect our enduring debt to them. I am pleased it has proved popular and effective.

HEALTH

NHS Patients (Additional Private Care)

The Secretary of State for Health (Alan Johnson): Following a 12-week consultation, which included hearing the views of a wide range of NHS and other stakeholders, I am today publishing final guidance on NHS patients who wish to pay for additional private care. The Department received 146 consultation responses, and was pleased that many of these responses were broadly supportive of the recommendations of the Richards review and the aims of the guidance. The final version of the guidance addresses many of the practical issues raised by respondents, and will provide clarity for trusts and patients in the small number of cases where they choose to purchase additional private treatment.

Patients and the public can be confident that together with the package I set out in my oral statement on 4 November 2008, *Official Report*, column 131, these measures will mean greater fairness and faster access to a wider range of more expensive drugs, reducing the need for patients to seek private care in the first place.

The guidance and the response to the consultation has been placed in the Library of the House and copies are available to hon. Members from the Vote Office.

INNOVATION, UNIVERSITIES AND SKILLS

"The Learning Revolution" White Paper

The Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills (Mr. John Denham): Today I am publishing "The Learning Revolution", a White Paper on informal adult learning. Copies have been placed in the Library of the House.

The boom in book clubs, on-line research and blogging, together with the continuing popularity of museums, public lectures and adult education classes, all demonstrate that people in this country have a passion for learning. This informal adult learning can transform people's lives and makes a huge contribution to the well-being of the nation. It is a growing movement this Government are proud to foster and encourage.

Our ambition is for every adult to be able to access and benefit from a wide choice of informal adult learning. But like many services and opportunities, some people find them easier to access than others. We recognise we can do more to ensure that inspiring opportunities are available in every community, accessible to everyone.

The White Paper reaffirms the commitment to informal adult learning across Government. It sets out how we will facilitate this by building capacity within individuals and communities and connecting the people who can make this happen.

Government can not do this alone. Our role is to be a catalyst for innovation and change. We will invest an additional £30 million in 2009-10, from within DIUS existing baselines, to support the innovation we want to see. But it will take the continued efforts of all those who have been engaged with us to date, and many more, to continue the learning revolution.

Written Ministerial Statements

Tuesday 24 March 2009

CHILDREN, SCHOOLS AND FAMILIES

Independent Schools, Non-Maintained Special Schools and Boarding Schools (Safeguarding Arrangements)

The Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (Ed Balls): On 22 October, I asked Sir Roger Singleton to carry out a review of safeguarding arrangements in independent schools, non-maintained special schools and boarding schools in England. The terms of reference asked him to look at the current statutory and non-statutory safeguarding arrangements that impact on these schools, to examine how these arrangements work in practice, focusing on systems and not on individual cases, and to make any recommendations that are needed to strengthen current arrangements.

I warmly welcome Sir Roger's report "Keeping our School Safe" which sets out the strengths and weaknesses of the existing systems and makes several recommendations. His thorough and careful review shows ~~that the~~ current framework generally works well, but that there are elements that need to be reviewed and updated to bring about a series of small changes that together will bring significant benefits. The wide ranging recommendations affect DCSF, Ofsted and the other independent school inspectorates, local authorities and local safeguarding children boards.

We accept all the recommendations and my response to Sir Roger sets out the immediate steps we are taking to implement those things that can be done straight away. We will consult with key stakeholders in preparing this plan, to ensure that they are committed to working together to put in place the strengthened arrangements set out in the report. I will be publishing my detailed response to Sir Roger's recommendations alongside the detailed response to Lord Laming's recent report on the protection of children in England at the end of April.

Copies of the review and our initial response have been placed in the House of Commons Library.

HOME DEPARTMENT

G6 Meeting (Berlin)

The Secretary of State for the Home Department (Jacqui Smith): The informal G6 group of Interior Ministers from France, Germany, Spain, Italy, Poland and the UK held their most recent meeting in Berlin, Germany during the afternoon of 15 March. Germany currently holds the presidency of the G6 group. I attended on behalf of the United Kingdom.

The meeting was divided into two working sessions, the first of which was attended by the core G6 Ministers. This group sat again for the second working session, with the additional attendance of the United States' Secretary of Homeland Security, Janet Napolitano.

The first working session was asked to consider three topics. First, Ministers discussed the future structure of the G6. Ministers agreed to dissolve the former G6 working group structures and return the format to high-level political discussions. No formal conclusions would be issued after meetings. Ministers were keen to extend invitations to G6 meetings to third countries on an issue-by-issue basis, where this could add value to discussions. I agreed with this streamlined approach

Secondly, in advance of the meeting with the US, Ministers discussed ideas for a 'Transatlantic Agenda' between the EU and US on interior issues. Data sharing was the main area discussed, with reference to its implications for collaborative work on organised crime, counter-narcotics and counter-terrorism.

Thirdly, the G6 were invited to share their experiences and current best practice on issues relating to youth crime. Following the German shooting in Baden-Wurttemberg earlier in the week, Ministers discussed ways to identify vulnerable young people before they turned to violence. I identified the cross-over with radicalisation. I also outlined work the Government were doing to tackle knife and gang crime, and discussed regional initiatives designed to improve the relationship between young people and the police. The G6 presidency will now write a joint letter to the EU Commission and Council to inform them of the productive discussion, and propose a similar debate is raised at EU level.

Secretary Napolitano opened the second working session by outlining the new administration's desire to work closely with EU partners. The G6 welcomed the new Minister to the group. It was acknowledged that current policy and legal positions could constrain transatlantic data exchange. Secretary Napolitano stated that the US was keen to make progress with EU partners in this area, and described how a privacy officer had recently been appointed to her department. She will recommend that her new appointee meets with EU partners in the coming months in order to further discussion in this area.

The next meeting of the G6 will be held in the UK in the latter half of this year.

SOLICITOR-GENERAL

Human Trafficking

The Solicitor-General (Vera Baird): The Government are investing a further £3.7 million over the next two years into the POPPY project to help vulnerable victims of human trafficking. The POPPY project, managed by Eaves Housing for Women, has provided refuge to hundreds of victims of human trafficking since 2003, backed by £5.8 million Government support. This new investment will help meet the commitments of the Council of Europe convention on action against human trafficking which the UK ratified in December 2008, coming into force in April. It is part of a wider package for victims, with the introduction of a 45 day extendable recovery and reflection period; new temporary residence permits for those participating in a criminal investigation; and a more co-ordinated and multi-agency way of identifying and referring victims into support.

The new resources will see:

an expansion of supported accommodation with refuge places for victims of trafficking for sexual exploitation and domestic servitude in London, Sheffield and Cardiff;

an increase in advocacy workers to provide one-to-one tailored support to victims; facilitating their access to services and helping them through the criminal justice process;

the continuation of the community outreach team;

link workers based within the UK Human Trafficking Centre to work in partnership with the police, UK Border Agency and other partners to help with victim identification and onward referral into support; and

a new national co-ordinator to help set consistent standards of care, capacity build

and raise awareness with local agencies and funders.

Victims are often subjected to multiple crimes including rape, physical violence, kidnapping and threats. The Government are committed to making the United Kingdom a hostile environment for traffickers and protecting victims. We published a comprehensive UK action plan in March 2007 which was updated on 2nd July 2008. We will continue to work internationally and in this country to combat these crimes.

Written Ministerial Statements

Wednesday 25 March 2009

BUSINESS, ENTERPRISE AND REGULATORY REFORM

Transport, Telecommunications and Energy Council (Telecoms Council)

The Minister for Employment Relations and Postal Affairs (Mr. Pat McFadden): My noble Friend the Minister for Communications, Technology and Broadcasting, Lord Carter of Barnes, has made the following statement.

I am pleased to confirm the agenda items for which BERR has responsibility at the forthcoming Transport, Telecommunications and Energy Council (Telecoms Council) in Brussels on 31 March 2009.

There are only two substantive agenda items, the first of which is the adoption of Council conclusions on the Commission's Communication for an accessible information society. The UK welcomes and supports the timing of this communication which is in line with recommendations recently made in the cross-Government report "Delivering Digital Inclusion - An Action Plan for Consultation". Both the cross-Government paper and the Digital Britain report are also looking at what the Government can do to stimulate take-up and access of digital technologies in the UK.

This will be followed by an exchange of views on the impact of the economic downturn on ICT and how ICT can boost the EU's economy. As the Government's interim Digital Britain report highlighted, ICT is one of the sectors which we all rely upon to underpin our whole economy, as its effective utilisation can deliver productivity gains to our citizens and enterprises. This discussion will provide an opportunity to introduce our thinking for taking Digital Britain forward, and listen to the plans and proposals other Ministers are considering to enable ICT to accelerate longer term growth.

In addition to these two substantive items, there are four further items for which BERR has responsibility listed under any other business. The first of these will be an update from the Council presidency on negotiations on a decision of the European Parliament and of the Council on interoperability solutions for European public administrations (ISA Programme). The UK supports the proposed programme as its predecessors have proved successful in delivering guidelines, common frameworks, studies on cross-border communication and IT—enabled service platforms for the delivery of community policies and activities.

The presidency will then provide information on the recent 112 Day. To mark 112 Day in the UK, I wrote to other Government Departments who could play a role in raising awareness of the pan-European emergency number. We are currently undertaking follow up work on this with the Foreign Office and Identity and Passport Service (IPS).

The Commission will then present their Communication on mobilising information and communication technologies to facilitate the transition to an energy-efficient, low-carbon economy. The UK agrees with the aims of this Communication which seeks to raise awareness of the potential ICT has to improve efficiency of European enterprises, including public sector, systems and processes.

Lastly, the presidency will provide an update on the review of the EU regulatory framework for electronic communications networks and services. On the same day as the Council, the European Parliament are voting in Committee stage on this review package, followed by their plenary vote on 22 April. I will shortly be writing to hon. Members with explanatory memoranda on the Commission's response to the Council common position, and will take the opportunity to update hon. Members on the progress of negotiations.

The Czech presidency are also hosting a ministerial lunch where Estonia is likely to be invited to make a presentation on their forthcoming conference on cyber security in Tallinn. Commissioner Reding will present the forthcoming communication on Communication and Information Infrastructure Protection. I understand the communication will recommend broad standards on the resilience of critical ICT infrastructure and on member states' national response capacity to ensure the provision of telecoms services.

TREASURY

Payments Council (OFT Review)

The Economic Secretary to the Treasury (Ian Pearson): On 25 March, the Office of Fair Trading (OFT) published a report setting out its findings on the effectiveness of the Payments Council in meeting its objectives. The Payments Council started work in March 2007, following an agreement in November 2006 by the OFT-chaired payment systems taskforce that a new body be created to provide strategic direction for the UK's payment industry. The taskforce set three key objectives for the Payments Council:

> to lead the future development of co-operative payment services in the United Kingdom;
>
> to ensure that the payment system is open and accountable; and
>
> to ensure the operational efficiency, effectiveness and integrity of payment services in the United Kingdom, through a focus on issues which cross schemes.

The taskforce agreed that the OFT would carry out a review of the effectiveness of the new governance body (subsequently named the Payments Council), after two years of its operation. This was to ensure that the objectives of the new body were being met and delivered on in practice. This statement highlights the key findings and recommendations in the OFT review of the operations of the Payments Council.

The OFT report concludes that the Payments Council is a definite improvement on what prevailed before its creation. The Payments Council's consultation on a national payments plan, setting out the strategic direction it should pursue over the next five to 10 years, was widely welcomed by stakeholders, and contributed to its objective on openness and accountability. The introduction of the faster payments scheme (FPS) in

May 2007 represented a substantial innovation. Users of the system will be able to make telephone and internet payments within a matter of hours, rather than over three working days as under the BACS system.

While the introduction of the faster payment scheme was a real achievement, the rolling out of faster payment services by many banks to their customers has been relatively slow. The report finds that the Payments Council should be more proactive in following up its initiatives with members and should also consider widening its membership and making more effective use of user groups, to ensure that end users get the benefits envisaged.

The OFT report recommends that the Payments Council increases the emphasis on its integrity objective in future. Although the safety and security of payment systems have not been compromised, the Payments Council has not added value quickly enough, and this is an area where it needs to improve. The OFT considers that the Payments Council should commission an accountancy firm to report in two years on how well it has performed against its integrity objective. The report (or the executive summary of it) should be published in the Payments Council's Annual Review, and the Payments Council should outline how it intends to address any action points identified in it. Following the review from the accountancy firm, the Payments Council should self-assess against its integrity objective using the same procedure described below for its other objectives.

The OFT also recommends that the Payments Council provides a self-assessment against progress every two years on:

its strategic direction and openness and accountability objectives;

recommendations of the taskforce where these have not been met; and

recommendations coming out of this OFT report.

This self-assessment should contain the results of an open consultation with stakeholders on progress against objectives. The OFT may still choose to look into specific aspects of the Payments Council's performance against objectives, if it considers there to be sufficient reason.

The Government welcome the OFT work to review the effectiveness of the Payments Council, and welcomes the recommendations made. I am writing today to the chair of the Payments Council to note the Government's continued interest in the future work of the Payments Council.

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Rural Economy and Affordable Housing

The Minister for Housing (Margaret Beckett): The Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs and I are today publishing the Government's response to the report from the hon. Member for Truro and St. Austell (Matthew Taylor) "Living, Working Countryside".

In September 2007, the Prime Minister asked the hon. Member to undertake a review on how land use and planning can better support rural businesses and deliver affordable housing and to report to the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs and the Minister of State for Housing and Planning. The final report of the review, with detailed recommendations, was published in July 2008. The review identified the specific challenges facing rural areas but recognises that, "contrary to an often outdated view of the countryside, the economies of rural and urban England are much more alike than many people might imagine". The Government will therefore give local authorities more flexibility to tackle the issues their communities face.

Our response sets out our proposals to take forward most of the review's 48 recommendations to continue to encourage a prosperous rural economy and improve the delivery of affordable rural homes. This will help businesses, councils and the wider community, particularly in the current challenging economic conditions, and will assist rural communities in becoming more sustainable.

We welcome the review as giving important emphasis to what it takes to develop and sustain a strong rural economy, and improve access to a range of housing. In response to the review's recommendations, we are announcing new approaches which local planning authorities and rural communities should adopt to improve the rural economy and encourage more affordable housing to be built in the countryside in appropriate places.

This includes:

ensuring that master planning is properly understood, and widely used, and running a competition to encourage good practice. In this context, "master planning" primarily means spatial master planning, as an approach to achieve the sustainable expansion of small or medium-sized settlements in particular.

setting up a practitioners' working group to explore ways to incentivise landowners to use the existing rural exception sites policy, where local planning authorities can grant permission for small scale housing development as an "exception" to their normal policies of countryside protection.

bringing together a number of existing planning policy statements covering economic development topics into a single new planning policy statement on planning for prosperity. This will be published for consultation shortly.

publishing proposals for taking forward the use of community land trusts which can enable local communities to work together to meet their own housing needs, alongside details to create protected areas where shared ownership homes need to be retained for future purchasers. These proposals too will be published for consultation shortly.

A copy of the Government's response is available in the Library of the House.

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Resource Efficiency Support

The Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Hilary Benn): Following a review of the Department's delivery bodies which support business, consumers and the public sector in resource efficiency, DEFRA has decided that from April 2010, Waste and Resources Action Programme (WRAP) will lead in the provision of such advice and support. This will provide a streamlined, more efficient service and better value for money to the taxpayer.

The review covered the following organisations:

Waste and Resources Action Programme (WRAP)

National Industrial Symbiosis Programme (NISP)

Envirowise
Construction Resources and Waste Platform (CRWP)
Centre for Reuse and Remanufacture (CRR)
Action Sustainability (AS)
BREW Centre for Local Authorities

All were involved and consulted throughout the entire review process.

The review also considered the role of Regional Development Agencies (RDAs) in supporting business resource efficiency, including through Business Link as the primary access for business support.

Over the last three years, DEFRA has invested £650 million in a range of programmes that help organisations and the public use resources more efficiently. With this funding our delivery partners have delivered environmental benefits and cost savings for business. They should be rightly proud of their achievements.

The review identified that a single delivery body was the most efficient way of providing resource efficiency services to businesses, the public sector and households; and that such a single point of contact would also ensure greater ease of access for customers. WRAP was identified as the natural focus for this effort, providing the widest range of relevant services, and having the necessary management capability.

This change will support the "Improving your Resource Efficiency" product provided by RDAs through Business Link under Government's Business Support Simplification Programme (BSSP).

Over the coming year, WRAP will work with DEFRA and the other delivery bodies to determine how best to implement this fully integrated service from April 2010.

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

Conflict Resources 2009-10

The Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs (David Miliband): My right hon. Friends the Secretary of State for Defence, the Secretary of State for International Development and I would like to inform the House about our plans for conflict funding for the next financial year.

In October 2007 the Government announced a new Public Service Agreement for Preventing and Resolving Conflict (PSA 30). The 2007 comprehensive spending review (CSR) settlement set out the programme resources available for supporting implementation of PSA 30—£109 million through the Conflict Prevention Pool (CPP), £73 million through the Stabilisation Aid Fund (SAF) and an additional call on the Treasury reserve for peacekeeping costs, currently capped at £374 million. The peacekeeping budget currently covers both the UK's assessed contributions to UN, OSCE and EU international peacekeeping missions, as well as certain discretionary peacekeeping activity. In the CSR settlement it was agreed that the new CPP would continue to be the first port of call if assessed (obligatory) peacekeeping costs rose above forecast.

The UK's total available conflict resource for FY 2009-10, leaving aside the cost of UK military operations in Afghanistan and Iraq, was therefore set at £556 million —£109 million CPP, £73 million SAF, £374 million peacekeeping budget.

A year into the CSR settlement we face a large projected increase in the UK's assessed peacekeeping contributions caused by:

> an increase in peacekeeping activity through the UN and the European Union. This reflects a positive trend; for example, the UN mission in Darfur moving towards full strength. And it also reflects some new commitments. These include the decision by the Security Council in Resolution 1863 to provide a package of logistical support to the African Union mission in Somalia and its decision to reinforce MONUC, the UN mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), following the renewed hostilities in eastern DRC.
>
> exchange rate changes. The Government are billed by the UN, EU and OSCE in US dollars and euros. While the impact of this in financial year 2008-09 has been partly offset by the effects of forward purchasing our foreign currency requirement, the fall in the value of sterling means that our costs will be significantly larger in 2009-10 than in the past.

In this context we have agreed the following:

> We will earmark £456 million from the £556 million available for 2009-10 to cover the projected rise in assessed peacekeeping contributions allowing us to meet our legal obligations. This is significantly higher than the current £374 million peacekeeping allocation from the Treasury reserve and would leave only £100 million from the CSR settlement to fund all other conflict activity, including discretionary peacekeeping previously funded from the reserve (estimated at some £70 million in 2008-09).
>
> To offset the impact on UK conflict prevention, stabilisation and discretionary peacekeeping activity, the Department for International Development (DFID), Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) and Ministry of Defence (MOD) will provide an additional £71 million from Departmental budgets

We will therefore have £171 million from which all discretionary conflict prevention, stabilisation and peacekeeping activity will be funded. There will be five strategies: the SAF Afghanistan and CPP South Asia programmes will be merged; so too the SAF Iraq and CPP Middle East and North Africa programmes. A new wider Europe programme will fund activity in Russia/Commonwealth of Independent States and the Balkans (both currently individual programmes). The Africa programme will continue. A separate programme will be earmarked for thematic work, including support to international institutions to maintain our influence in international missions and security sector reform. The strategies will be managed tri-departmentally as is the case now.

Although DFID, the FCO and MOD are providing significant additional resources we are still unable to sustain funding levels to all regions. We have therefore undertaken an exercise to prioritise UK discretionary conflict expenditure more tightly on countries where the risk and impact of conflict is greatest. An outline of the revised programmes is provided below.

The total allocation for *South Asia, including Afghanistan*, will now be £61.3 million. This will allow us fully to sustain current levels of conflict related activity in Afghanistan, reflecting the very high priority which we attach to stabilisation in that country. A large proportion of the available resources will be spent on stabilisation programmes in Helmand, including on capacity building of the provincial institutions, communications with the Afghan people, counter narcotics and the rule of law. The priority given to this region sees a continuation of current levels of financial support for India/Pakistan issues, Sri Lanka and Nepal and an increase in support for work on the Afghanistan/Pakistan border.

In *Africa*, under a revised programme totalling £43 million, we will continue to give significant resources to both peacekeeping and conflict prevention work in countries such as Sudan, Somalia and the DRC. The balance of resources will necessarily shift away from West and Southern Africa towards East Africa and the Horn in line with PSA 30 with a few exceptions.

In *Wider Europe*, the total allocation will now be £33 million. This will allow us to maintain our national contribution to United Nations Forces in Africa (UNFICYP), the UN peacekeeping operation in Cyprus, in 2009-10. NATO has informed us that the current UK contribution to KFOR, the NATO peacekeeping force in Kosovo, is no longer required and we will therefore make plans to draw this down. We will fund a reduced level of commitment to EU and OSCE operations in the Balkans and the Caucasus, and continue to fund conflict prevention work in the Balkans.

In *the Middle East*, we will prioritise work in Iraq, Israel/Palestine and Lebanon within a revised programme of £18 million. A majority of the resource available will support stabilisation activity in Iraq. The allocation will also allow us to continue to support the emerging conflict prevention programme in Yemen.

The £6.5 million thematic programme including support for international organisations will provide resources for a security sector reform advisory capacity, a peacekeeping training capacity, defence education within priority countries, and support for the United Nations' Rule of Law Unit, Department of Peacekeeping Operations and Peacebuilding Support Office.

The need to prioritise within the limited resources available means that we have taken a decision to discontinue funding the CPP programme in *Latin America*. We will maintain the UK's significant contribution in the region on such issues as human rights and democracy; countering the illegal drugs trade; and climate change. Our embassies will also continue to work alongside international partners including the UN on conflict issues.

Within the £171 million we will retain a small central reserve to act primarily as a buffer against fluctuations in the exchange rate and increases in assessed peacekeeping or other conflict related costs. The likely cost of the assessed contributions will be reviewed regularly, so that any likely underspend or overspend against the upper limit of £456 can be identified and addressed.

This process has involved a series of difficult decisions and we will not be able to fund all areas of activity to the same level as in previous years. However, we are confident that the rigorous approach to prioritisation which has been taken, as well as the additional £71 million allocated by Departments, should allow us to maintain our significant contribution to international peacekeeping, and to fund essential conflict prevention and stabilisation activity in priority regions.

JUSTICE

Oakhill Secure Training Centre

The Minister of State, Ministry of Justice (Mr. David Hanson): In my written ministerial statement of 14 May 2008, *Official Report*, column 61WS, I informed the House that the Youth Justice Board had decided to issue rectification notices to STC Milton Keynes Limited, the contractor responsible for the delivery of services at Oakhill secure training centre.

My right hon. Friend the Minister of State for Children, Young People and Families and I wish to inform the House that the Youth Justice Board has decided to withdraw the rectification notices imposed on STC Milton Keynes Limited. The contractor has addressed all of the deficiencies which had been identified and the centre is now able to operate at full capacity.

Ofsted carried out an inspection of the centre in December 2008 and their report which was published yesterday gave the centre an overall quality rating of "satisfactory".

The next step is for the contractor to consolidate the positive changes and build on the improvements made to date. The Youth Justice Board will continue to monitor the service being delivered at the centre and will take the necessary actions to resolve any problems identified and drive forward improvements.

Law of Bribery

The Secretary of State for Justice and Lord Chancellor (Mr. Jack Straw): In my role as the Government's anti-corruption champion I am pleased to inform the House that I have today laid before Parliament the draft Bribery Bill for pre-legislative scrutiny ("Bribery - Draft Legislation" Cm 7570). This is in accordance with the Government's Legislative Programme as set out in the written statement by my right hon. and learned Friend the Leader of the House of Commons on 4 December 2008, *Official Report*, column 12WS.

The Bill describes a modern, clear and consolidated law that will support our commitment to high ethical standards generally and will equip our courts and prosecutors to deal effectively with bribery of all kinds whether it occurs at home or abroad. I believe these provisions strike the right balance between clarity and detail, so as to allow for both legal certainty and the effective differentiation between bribery and the legitimate giving and receiving of advantages.

Our current criminal law of bribery is old and anachronistic and can be difficult for prosecutors, courts and members of the public. Statutory law is fragmented and dates back to around the turn of the 20th century. It is unconsolidated, resulting in inconsistencies of language and concepts between the various provisions and one or two small but potentially significant gaps in the law. The scope of the common law offence is unclear, adding to inconsistency and overall complexity. These issues have been noted at home and abroad, most notably by the OECD Bribery Working Group. It is clear that, from a purely legal perspective, the case for reform is strong.

This is, however, much more than a desire for an orderly statute book. While the United Kingdom is recognised as one of the least corrupt countries in the world we do not underestimate the threat posed by bribery. If it is not kept in check bribery can destroy the integrity, accountability and honesty that underpin ethical standards in public and commercial life. By its very nature insidious and difficult to root out, bribery worldwide weakens democracy, impedes sustainable development and can undermine respect for human rights by supporting corrupt regimes.

As advances in technology and communication enable ever more sophisticated means of committing and concealing crimes, we must ensure that our law provides our courts and prosecutors with the tools they need to combat such crime effectively. Over the years it has become clear that a law that has narrow national focus will not fulfil this role. The global economy is a reality. Modernisation of the law is therefore a priority, not only to deal effectively with those who offer or accept bribes in our business or public sectors, but also to reinforce transparency and accountability in our international business transactions.

Law reform is one of the key elements of the UK's strategy against foreign bribery, which I am co-coordinating in my role as Government anti-corruption champion as announced in my statement of 2 October 2008. Concerted multilateral action is essential to tackle the global impact of bribery and related issues such as money laundering. Co-operation with our international partners is producing significant progress in areas such as the tracing, recovery and repatriation of money laundered misappropriated assets. In addition we are supporting effective implementation of the UN Convention against corruption, the OECD Bribery Convention and the Council of Europe's Criminal Law Convention on Corruption.

The Bill builds on the Law Commission proposals set out in its report "Reforming Bribery" in November 2008. I would like to express my gratitude to the Law Commission for its excellent report. The Bill's principal provisions create two general offences; one dealing with the giving, promising, and offering of a bribe and the other with agreeing to receive or acceptance of a bribe. It provides a new discrete offence of bribery of a foreign public official and a new corporate liability offence of negligently failing to prevent bribery. The detail of these and the other remaining provisions of the Bill are explained in full in the explanatory notes published along side the Bill. My officials have shared details of our proposed legislation with colleagues in Scotland. It will be for the Scottish Ministers to consider whether any similar changes will be necessary to Scots law.

TRANSPORT

EU Transport Council

The Secretary of State for Transport (Mr. Geoffrey Hoon): I will attend the first Transport Council of the Czech presidency which will take place in Brussels on 30 March.

There will be a progress report and policy debate on the latest situation on the proposed amendment to Directive 1999/62/EC on the charging of heavy goods vehicles for the use of certain infrastructures—the "Eurovignette directive". We support the principle of the "polluter pays" and therefore the broad aims of the directive. However, we have concerns with some of the proposals, including a requirement to introduce earmarking.

The Council will aim to reach a general approach on a proposed amendment to the directive on the organisation of working time in road transport. The amending directive aims to permanently exclude the genuinely self-employed from the scope of the working time rules for mobile workers and provide additional flexibility to industry on night work limits. I expect to be able to agree to the general approach.

Following the recent Commission Communication "Action Plan for the deployment of Intelligent Transport Systems in Europe", the Council will be asked to adopt conclusions. The Government support the objectives of the ITS action plan to reduce congestion, tackle environmental issues, provide reliable travel information and improve safety. We welcome the recognition in the conclusions of the contribution that technology can make to meet those objectives.

Within the SESAR project for Single Sky implementation, the Commission has recently produced a master-plan for air traffic management in Europe. The Council will be asked to adopt a decision endorsing the master plan and a Council resolution on it. The UK has been a firm supporter of the SESAR project from the outset. We recognise the contribution the project can make to improvement of the European air traffic management system, while helping to mitigate the impacts of aviation on the environment. In order for the project to begin its second phase (development), we should endorse this resolution and request the SESAR joint undertaking to complete membership agreements with industry at the earliest possible opportunity.

Under AOB, the presidency will report on progress of the legislative proposals of the Single European Sky (SES) package. It is expected that the European Parliament in plenary session will by then have voted on these proposals. The first of them is a regulation amending the four regulations adopted in 2004 which established the Single European Sky. The amending regulation aims to improve the efficiency of air traffic management (ATM) across the EU by introducing targets that ensure all member states contribute to an overall improvement in the performance of the ATM system. The second is an amending regulation extending the responsibilities of the European Aviation Safety Agency (EASA) to the safety of aerodromes, air traffic management and air navigation services. The UK has been a firm supporter of the Single European Sky since its inception in 2004. We are content with progress in negotiations and look forward to these proposals being adopted as soon as possible.

Finally in aviation, the presidency will seek political endorsement for a future Council decision to sign a comprehensive air transport agreement with Canada. The UK is supportive of this agreement, which would deliver the phased opening of aviation markets and investment liberalisation for EU and Canadian carriers, as well as other commercial freedoms and improved regulatory co-operation.

In maritime transport, there will be a progress report and policy debate on a draft regulation on the rights of passengers when travelling by sea and inland waterway. We support the aim of the regulation, following provisions already agreed for other transport modes, and we will continue to work closely with the Commission and member states on the details.

Also in maritime transport, the Council will be asked to adopt conclusions arising from two recent Commission Communications. The first, "strategic goals and recommendations for the EU's maritime transport policy until 2018", has as its aims, acceptable to us in principle, the promotion of European shipping and related industries, which are safe, secure and environmentally friendly, while remaining efficient, adaptable and globally competitive. The second Communication is an action plan with a view to establishing "a European maritime space without barriers". This is a concept which we can support in principle. It is designed to extend the community's internal market by simplifying administrative procedures for intra-EU maritime transport, particularly short sea shipping, in order to improve the efficiency and competitiveness of this sector, as well as to deliver environmental benefits. I expect to be able to agree to both sets of conclusions.

Under AOB, the Council will report on the draft regulation establishing the second "Marco Polo" programme, following recent negotiations with the European Parliament. The Marco Polo programme provides community financial assistance to improve the environmental performance of the freight transport system. This proposal intends to stimulate more applications for funding by increasing participation by small enterprises, simplifying administrative procedures, increasing funding intensities and redefining and lowering the eligibility thresholds for project proposals. The Government believe that these amendments should allow the Marco Polo II programme to fully deploy its potential, so we strongly support the proposed revision.

Also under AOB the Commission will report on the Galileo satellite navigation programme and on its recent proposal for an amending regulation on airport slot allocation.

Written Ministerial Statements

Thursday 26 March 2009

JUSTICE

Her Majesty's Land Registry

The Minister of State, Ministry of Justice (Mr. Michael Wills): The following list sets out the key performance indicators and targets that have been set for Her Majesty's Land Registry for 2009-10.

CUSTOMER SERVICE

Speed

Percentage of official copy and search applications processed within two working days: 98%.

Percentage of all registrations processed within 15 working days: 80%.

Accuracy

Percentage of registrations processed free of any error: 98.5%.

Overall Satisfaction

Percentage of customers who rate the overall service provided by Land Registry as excellent, very good or good: Better than 95%.

FINANCIAL

Percentage return on average capital employed: 3.5%.

EFFICIENCY

Cost per unit in cash terms[1] (real terms)[2]: £35.60 (£23.27).

STRATEGIC DEVELOPMENT AREA TARGETS

Customer Service

Introduction of a prototype service for electronic lodgement of a search of the index map (SIM) with plan.

Land Registration

Through voluntary registration, add a further 310,000 hectares of land to the total areas of registered freehold land in England and Wales.

Electronic Service Delivery

Introduce a pilot Business Gateway.

Business Development

Increase gross incremental revenue from "add value" products and services by 25 per cent. compared to 2008-09 and earn a contribution of 8 per cent. of income net of direct costs and apportioned product development costs.

[1] Based on the GDP deflator issued by HM Treasury on 23 December 2008 (base year 1992-93).

[2] The real term unit cost in the base year of 1992-93 was £30.65.

SOLICITOR-GENERAL

Binyam Mohamed

The Solicitor-General (Vera Baird): My right hon. and learned Friend the Attorney-General has made the following written ministerial statement:

> On 23 October 2008 the Home Secretary referred to me papers relating to allegations of possible criminal wrongdoing in relation to Binyam Mohamed, in order for me to consider whether further action should be taken. The matter was referred to me in my capacity as an independent guardian of the public interest and the rule of law. I perform this function wholly independently of Government.
>
> I have given the matter very careful consideration and have sought the views of the Director of Public Prosecutions. Both the director and I have thoroughly reviewed the substantial body of material, much of it highly sensitive, which has been referred to me both by the Home Secretary and by other sources. This includes the open and closed judgments of the Divisional Court in the case; transcripts of all the evidence given by Witness B; the other evidence and submissions made to the court; the Foreign Secretary's PII (public interest immunity) certificates; and material from third parties about the case. We have progressed this important work as quickly as possible.
>
> I have concluded that the appropriate course of action is to invite the Commissioner of the Metropolitan Police to commence an investigation into the allegations that have been made in relation to Binyam Mohamed.
>
> I have expressed to the Commissioner the hope that the investigation can be taken forward as expeditiously as possible given the seriousness and sensitivity of the issues involved. The conduct of the investigation will be a matter for the police, with advice from the Crown Prosecution Service.
>
> Any decision on whether any person should be charged with a criminal offence can only be taken following the police investigation on the basis of an independent assessment of the evidence and the public interest, in accordance with the code for Crown Prosecutors.

TRANSPORT

Driving Tests and Instructors

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Transport (Jim Fitzpatrick): The Driving Standards Agency (DSA) has today published a report on the results of its consultation on fees for theory and practical driving tests and for tests and trainee licences required as part of the approved driving instructor qualification process.

Copies of the report have been placed in the Libraries of the House and are also available from the DSA website: www.dsa.gov.uk.

The changes will be introduced for driving tests booked on or after 30 March 2009 and for approved driving instructor related services from 24 April.

The Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency (DVLA) has today published a report on the responses to its consultation on driving licensing fees on the DVLA website: www.dvla.gov.uk. Copies of the report have also been placed in the Libraries of the House. The changes will be introduced from 6 April.

The Vehicle and Operator Services Agency (VOSA) has today published a report on the results of its consultation on fees for services covering the testing, specialist inspections and operator licensing of heavy goods vehicles (HGVs) and public service vehicles (PSVs—buses and coaches); local bus service registration; issue of authorisations for some international journeys of HGVs and PSVs; single vehicle approval of cars, light goods vehicles and motorcycles; and tachograph centre approval. Copies of the report have been placed in the Libraries of the House and are also available from the Department for Transport website at: www.dft.gov.uk/consultations. The fees for HGV and PSV annual testing and operator licence will be introduced on 20 April; those for most other services are expected to be introduced on 27 April.

Road and Rail Capacity: East of England

The Secretary of State for Transport (Mr. Geoffrey Hoon): I am today informing the House of the results of the further work that the Department for Transport has carried out since March 2008 on the long-term capacity of the M11 motorway and the West Anglia main line. This work has considered the likely long-term growth in the regional economy as well as the potential expansion of Stansted airport, and the need to support both with effective and sustainable transport links. It has also taken account of the Government's latest air passenger demand forecasts, which were published on 15 January 2009.

The regional spatial strategy for the East of England was published on 12 May 2008. This plan provides for a 15 to 20-year vision for the sustainable development of the east of England, a region with particularly strong growth pressures. Despite the current economic downturn, the Government believe that, over the next 15 to 20 years, the East of England region will continue to witness a growth in its economy, the generation of new employment opportunities and continuing demand for the development of new housing.

Further work carried out by the Department has confirmed that, on the rail side, there remains a business case for a significant package of enhancements to the West Anglia main line, to deal with the long-term increase in passenger demand on the route. These enhancements could lead to significant improvements in journey times and frequencies for all users of the route. The Department will now specify the outputs it requires from the work to be undertaken by Network Rail in the forthcoming control period 2009-14. Network Rail will lead the detailed development work to determine the precise scope of improvements needed to deliver these important outputs, and progress the necessary planning consents. This work will inform the assessment of funding for the railway control period 2014-19, subject to affordability, value for money and business case approval.

On the roads side, the Department has, with the Highways Agency, considered a number of options which could deliver capacity enhancements to the M11 motorway between junctions 6 and 8. The options considered included dynamic use of the hard shoulder and widening the motorway to four lanes in each direction. The study work has concluded that no enhancements to this section of the motorway are needed until at least 2021. Thereafter, a number of enhancements may be needed. Decisions on these will be taken in the context of the delivering a sustainable transport system (DaSTS) framework, published in November 2008, which sets out a timetable for future investment decisions.

Copies of the reports underpinning this announcement have been made available in the Libraries of both Houses, as well as on the Department for Transport's website. The two reports are:

A North East London and West Anglia main line progress report and strategy, explaining the current issues facing the line and the improvements that might be made in future.

An M11 junctions 6 to 8 options identification report prepared on behalf of the Highways Agency, which explains the different options that have been considered and their respective advantages and disadvantages.

Written Ministerial Statements

Friday 27 March 2009

TREASURY

Court and Tribunal Costs

The Financial Secretary to the Treasury (Mr. Stephen Timms): The policy of the Inland Revenue and HM Customs and Excise on coming to arrangements about costs (in the context of High Court cases) was set out on 12 March 1980 by Mr Peter Rees, then Minister of State at the Treasury.

This statement updates that policy in relation to cases which will be considered in the Tax Chamber of the First-tier Tribunal, or the Finance and Tax Chamber of the Upper Tribunal, after 1 April 2009 following the changes made under the Tribunals, Courts and Enforcement Act 2007.

The general rule in the appeal courts is that the losing party risks having to pay the other side's costs, and I do not think it would be right to treat tax cases differently as a matter of course.

However, HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) exercise their discretion and are willing in appropriate circumstances, and in particular where it is they who are appealing against an adverse decision, to consider waiving any claim to costs in cases before the Upper Tribunal or the appeal courts, or to consider making other arrangements—this may also extend to cases before the First-tier Tribunal.

In the minority of cases categorised as complex, where costs can be awarded in the Tax Chamber of the First-tier Tribunal other than for unreasonable behaviour, the appellant can ensure that there is no risk of them bearing HMRC's costs by opting for the costs rules not to apply.

In considering the exercise of HMRC's discretion, influential factors include the risk of financial hardship to the other party, the involvement of a point of law the clarification of which would be of significant benefit to taxpayers as a whole and the efficient collection and management of revenue for which HMRC have responsibility.

If HMRC are to come to an arrangement of this nature, they would expect to do so in advance of the hearing and following an approach by the taxpayer involved.

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Community Infrastructure Fund

The Minister for Housing (Margaret Beckett): My hon. Friend the Member for Gillingham (Paul Clark), the Under-Secretary of State for Transport, and I are today announcing £170 million of capital support from the Community Infrastructure Fund for 29 transport projects in the growth areas and growth points that will help to unlock housing, and a further 26 projects that are being invited to submit full business cases for further consideration.

The housing market is experiencing significant challenges as a result of turbulence in the global financial markets. The growth areas and growth points are playing a critical role in helping us to meet these challenges, with plans to build 35 per cent. above previously planned levels. But if the infrastructure support for these new homes is not in place, their construction will be delayed when we need them most, hampering the economy's recovery. This means we need to be investing today in tomorrow's infrastructure. The long-term challenge to meet the housing needs of an ageing, growing population, while helping families and first time buyers priced out of the property market, remains. The Government are committed to promoting the long-term stability of the housing market and meeting the long term challenge of increasing housing supply.

The Community Infrastructure Fund is one of Government's key mechanisms for supporting housing growth. As a joint Communities and Local Government and Department for Transport fund, it is designed to specifically support small and medium scale transport schemes that unlock housing growth. One hundred million pounds has already been allocated to 13 schemes in the Thames Gateway. A further £200 million has been ring-fenced to support the growth areas and growth points over the CSR07 period.

Today's announcement allocates £170 million of this for 29 transport schemes in the growth areas and growth points that will support the delivery in housing growth over the next two years. The list projects include:

> New public transport facilities, such as the new South East Hampshire Bus rapid transit scheme;
>
> New road and junction improvements, such as the improvements to the Southgate area of Kings Lynn which will support the development of 900 new homes;
>
> Innovative transport solutions that will ensure smoother traffic flows and reduced congestion such as the A14 ramp metering scheme in Kettering and the urban traffic management scheme in Aylesbury; and
>
> Schemes to improve sustainability, such as the Wichestowe Pedestrian and Cycle Bridge which will provide a sustainable means for the new development at Wichelstowe to access the town centre in Swindon

Another 26 schemes from the second round growth points have been shortlisted to submit full business cases for consideration for a further £30 million from the community infrastructure fund together with any remaining funding from the first round. This includes projects to provide a new rail station at Chorley, new cycling facilities at Ellesmere Port and road improvements to service high frequency bus services in Newcastle.

The Community Infrastructure Fund is being managed on behalf of Government by the Homes and Communities Agency. This funding is in addition to the £833 million already provided to the growth areas and growth points from the growth fund over the CSR07 period.

Further details of the schemes that have been allocated funding have been placed in the Library of the House.

Draft East of England Regional Spatial Strategy (Accommodation Provision for Gypsies and Travellers)

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (Mr. Sadiq Khan): My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Communities is today publishing the Proposed Changes to the draft East of England Regional Spatial Strategy policy on accommodation for Gypsies and Travellers. In addition, the Secretary of State is publishing her decisions on the recommendations of the panel which conducted the examination in public of the draft policy. A sustainability report—encompassing Sustainability Appraisal, Strategic Environmental Assessment and Habitats Regulations Screening Assessment of the Proposed Changes—is also being published.

The proposed changes, and the Secretary of State's Decisions and Sustainability Report are now subject to an eight week period of public consultation. Consultation responses should be submitted no later than 5 pm on Friday 22 May.

The Secretary of State will carefully consider all responses to the consultation before the Gypsy and Traveller accommodation policy is finalised later this year.

The draft policy was developed by the East of England regional assembly through a rigorous consultation process involving two years of research and consultation with local authorities, businesses, voluntary organisations, the public and Gypsy and Traveller communities, which was submitted to the Secretary of State on 25 February 2008 for 12 weeks public consultation. There was a public examination under an independent panel in October 2008. The Secretary of State's proposed changes respond to the findings of the panel.

Key elements of the Secretary of State's proposed changes include:

Increasing the numbers of additional pitches to be provided in the East of England by 2011 from 1,187 to 1,237 (4.2 per cent.) and treating them as minima;

Including provision for transit sites, 160 pitches by 2011;

Including provision for travelling showpeople, 184 pitches by 2011; and

Lower pitch requirements for Basildon and Epping Forest, recognising the particular delivery challenges in those districts.

The policy is part of the longer term planning process for homes within the East of England, and of the Government's commitment to provide sufficient authorised sites for Gypsies and Travellers to stop the cycle of evictions from unauthorised sites that is both costly to the taxpayer and impacts on the quality of life for the travelling community and wider public.

Copies of the Secretary of State's proposed changes and decisions, together with the sustainability report, have been placed in the Library of the House and have been provided for the region's MPs, MEPs and local authorities.

DEFENCE

Royal and Ministerial Air Travel

The Minister for the Armed Forces (Mr. Bob Ainsworth): Further to the written ministerial statement on Royal and Ministerial Air Transport laid by, Under-Secretary of State for Transport, my hon. Friend the Member for Poplar and Canning Town, (Jim Fitzpatrick), on the 26 March 2008 (WS11-12), work has been carried out to explore solutions for non-scheduled and dedicated flights to support the Queen and members of the royal family in their official duties. Pending the finalisation of this work the Ministry of Defence has agreed that 32 (The Royal) Squadron will provide continued support to the royal family until 1 April 2010.

JUSTICE

Criminal Legal Aid Services

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Justice (Mr. Shahid Malik): The Legal Services Commission (LSC) has today published a consultation on Best Value Tendering (BVT) of criminal legal aid services. This follows an initial LSC consultation published in December 2007 which set out the principles of how a market based approach could be introduced for the procurement of criminal defence services, together with some broad design issues. This second consultation paper sets out a detailed model for the introduction of Best Value Tendering for police station and magistrates' court work. It describes plans to pilot BVT in two criminal justice system areas (Greater Manchester and Avon and Somerset) from autumn 2009. Following a review of the pilot, the intention is to roll out BVT across England and Wales on a phased basis during 2010 and 2011.

The proposed model takes as its starting point the recommendations of Lord Carter of Cole's review of legal aid procurement which identified the need for fundamental reform in the way legal services are procured. His report, published in 2006, recommended a market-based approach that defined best value in terms of quality, capacity and price. The Government accepted these recommendations and committed to the implementation of a quality assured tendering process.

The proposed reforms aim to secure long term sustainability for criminal defence services by allocating work to those providers who meet the required quality standards and offer best value for money. BVT will enable solicitors' firms to offer their services at a price which they know is sustainable for them and reflects the costs of provision in their local area. It also offers firms of all sizes the opportunity to secure the volume of work that best suits their business model, and to expand should they wish to do so. The BVT proposals affect work undertaken at the police station and magistrates' court only; any move to introduce BVT in the Crown Court would be subject to a further consultation.

The consultation paper also describes the contracting process that will apply to firms wishing to undertake criminal defence work outside of the BVT pilot areas from July 2010.

The 12 week consultation closes on 19 June 2009. Copies of "2010 Contracts and Best Value Tendering: a Consultation" have been placed in the Libraries of both Houses, the Vote Office and the Printed Paper Office. The document can be downloaded from the consultation section of the LSC's website at www.legalservices.gov.uk.

Preventing Deaths in Custody

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Justice (Mr. Shahid Malik): The Forum for Preventing Deaths in Custody today publishes its final annual report. The forum has been independently chaired, and its policy positions have not always coincided with Government policy, I nevertheless welcome this report.

Every death in custody is a personal tragedy for those left behind and I recognise that the numbers are still too high. Bringing about a reduction in the number of deaths in custody remains a priority for the Government, and that is why, in July 2008, the Under- Secretary of State, my hon. Friend the Member for Liverpool, Garston (Maria Eagle), announced a radical overhaul of the machinery for dealing with this important issue, following an independent review, *Official Report*, 21 July 2008 column 75WS. The new Ministerial Council on Deaths in Custody that was announced by my hon. Friend will commence work in April 2009. I believe it will build on the good work of the Forum for Preventing Deaths in Custody, and will further contribute to our learning from deaths in custody across all custodial settings.

I also take this opportunity to record my gratitude to the forum's outgoing chair, John Wadham. Mr. Wadham was heavily involved in the forum's inception in 2005, and he has chaired it since that time, latterly in a voluntary capacity. I believe he has made a significant contribution to the objective of ensuring the safety of those held in state custody, and to the solid foundations the forum has laid for the future.

Copies of the 2007-08 annual report of the Forum for Preventing Deaths in Custody will be placed in the Libraries of both Houses. Copies are available from the forum's website: www.preventingcustodydeaths.org.uk.

Written Ministerial Statements

Monday 30 March 2009

BUSINESS, ENTERPRISE AND REGULATORY REFORM

UKAEA Limited

The Minister for Employment Relations and Postal Affairs (Mr. Pat McFadden): My noble Friend the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform has made the following statement.

We are announcing today the commencement of a sale process to dispose of 100 per cent. of UKAEA Ltd (offers will also be accepted for a partial offer), the commercial operations of the UK Atomic Energy Authority (UKAEA). The process will take the form of two stages, an initial stage which will allow bidders access to an information memorandum document written by Greenhill & Co and will request first round bids. Following this, a second stage, will allow a smaller number of interested parties access to detailed due diligence and put forward a further more detailed bid. It is the intention for Her Majesty's Government to complete the transaction prior to the summer recess.

The sale is the next step in the development of the commercial business of UKAEA Ltd, which was first approved by Ministers in 2005. The sale is recognition of the work done by management in creating a commercially viable enterprise that has become an important repository of key nuclear skills that will help ensure that the UK will remain at the forefront of the nuclear services industry.

UKAEA Ltd principally undertakes nuclear decommissioning work under contract for Nuclear Decommissioning Authority-owned sites in the UK (Dounreay and Harwell/Winfrith). The business also has a fledgling consulting services business within the nuclear decommissioning sector under which it operates tier 2 and tier 3 smaller scale contracts for both the NDA and other owners.

The principal site of operation for UKAEA Ltd is Dounreay, located in the north-east of Scotland. The business also contains a pensions administration business which administers the pensions of several nuclear industry public sector operators.

The business plan of UKAEA Ltd aims to grow revenues by principally growing the consulting services provided by the business. Within the UK and internationally there are a significant number of "old" nuclear facilities for which decommissioning services will be required.

UKAEA Ltd's key decommissioning site Dounreay will be competed in the next two years Government would like UKAEA Ltd to be in a position to enter the competition with clarity and stability over the business's ownership.

This sale underlines the importance attached to the clean up of nuclear waste. It will increase efficiency, competition and value for money for the taxpayer in the decommissioning and clean up work of old nuclear power stations.

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Planning Call-in Direction and Circular

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (Mr. Iain Wright): I am today publishing the Town and Country Planning (Consultation) (England) Direction 2009, appended to Circular 02/09. Copies have been placed in the Library of the House.

This direction, which comes into force on 20 April 2009, will require local planning authorities in England to consult the Secretary of State before granting planning permission for certain types of development for which they are minded to grant permission. It replaces all such existing directions, which are cancelled; and makes changes to the terms of some of them in the light of the consultation exercise undertaken during 2008 as explained in the accompanying Government response.

In line with the commitment given in the "Planning" White Paper in 2007, the changes will streamline the planning policy framework and give local planning authorities greater freedom in deciding their own planning applications. The changes also accord with the Killian Pretty recommendation to make the policy framework simpler and more user-friendly.

The new direction introduces a new requirement for local planning authorities to refer applications in circumstances where English Heritage are sustaining an objection on the grounds that a proposed development could have an adverse impact on the outstanding universal value, integrity, authenticity and significance of a world heritage site or its setting.

Additionally, the shopping direction is cancelled without replacement, as are the three elements of the current departures direction relating to housing; land belonging to the local planning authority; and "any other development which would—significantly prejudice the implementation of the development plan's policies and proposals". The current requirement to refer departures from the development plan which relate to proposals for more than 5,000 sq m of gross retail, leisure, office or mixed commercial floor space is extended to apply additionally to proposals for increases of existing floor space of over 2,500 sq m, where the total would then exceed 5,000 sq m. However, it will only apply to proposals on sites in edge or out of centre locations.

This new direction will not affect the Secretary of State's power under section 77 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 to direct that any particular planning application should be called in for her own determination irrespective of whether it falls within the terms of this direction. It will still be open to anyone to request that any application be considered for "call in".

The direction, the accompanying impact assessment and the Government's response to the consultation paper are available on the CLG website, at: http://www.communities.gov.uk/corporate/publications/consultations/

At the same time, Communities and Local Government is cancelling a number of other planning circulars and other guidance documents which have become obsolete but have never been formally withdrawn. The details of the cancelled documents are available on the CLG website.

Regeneration

The Minister for Local Government (John Healey): I am today announcing the revaluation of the 2007-13 programme of projects eligible for assistance through the European regional development fund. This is a prudent step to reflect the impact of changes in the exchange rate on the sterling value of the funds. With immediate effect, I can confirm there will be an increase of £144 million in the value of these programmes. This is money that is available to increase regional competitiveness, create and safeguard jobs, and stimulate economic growth. This will help regions minimise the impact of the recession.

I am also able to confirm, that because of the challenging economic circumstances, the European Commission has increased the advance payment due to the regional development agencies. This now totals £195 million (7.5 per cent. of the total programme). The extra £65 million of this will be paid to regional development agencies in late spring.

The actions I have described here will provide further help to these programmes to target worklessness, support small and medium enterprises and fund innovative, high-tech business investment and I have asked RDAs to revisit their programmes to ensure these reflect the Government's priorities of creating and safeguarding jobs.

Late last year the European Commission offered member states the possibility of extending the 2000-06 programmes for a further six months until June 2009. The offer did not mean that there was any new money being offered by the EC. It was simply an offer of more time for those projects that had slipped against the previously planned schedule or those that had capacity to continue spending to produce additional outputs. There was little additional flexibility and it would have been unlikely that any new projects could be commissioned that met the requirements of the programmes and delivered in the time frame available. The European Commission recently offered us the opportunity to review this decision. We have done so carefully but there remains little advantage in England accepting this. Instead, we now want to ensure all efforts possible are made to help future projects and programmes maximise the substantially increased resources that are available in the new programme round (for the 2007-13 programme) which is just getting under way. Through these programmes a total of €3.2 billion (approximately £2.8 billion at today's exchange rate) will be invested. Part of the requirement for the EC funding is that match funding must be secured for the ERDF grant. Match may come from a variety of sources, typically from RDAs, local authorities, other public bodies and private sector investors. This is tough in the current economic circumstances and we are aware of the challenges programme partners face in making the necessary investments quickly enough to have an impact.

I am therefore today writing to all the chairs of regional development agencies (who administer the 2007-13 programme round in England) to undertake a rapid joint stocktake of the match funding position to identify gaps and potential sources and to share best practice.

In addition, my officials are working collaboratively with the RDAs to help establish high spending programmes such as Joint European Resources for Micro to Medium Enterprises (JEREMIE) and Joint European Support for Sustainable Investment in City Areas (JESSICA) which are new financing schemes to support small and medium enterprises and help secure regeneration benefits in less well performing areas. We are working to overcome the barriers to these models and to technical issues relating to venture capital funds. These have the potential to create a sustainable investment legacy which over time will decrease reliance on European grants.

I am also taking the opportunity in this statement to report decisions by the European Commission which has now confirmed financial corrections for the 1997-99 programme period. These relate to the north-east and north-west regions. These programmes together are valued at £358 million and have been of substantial benefit to the regions. They have assisted more than 1,700 regeneration projects helping to boost employment, skills and business in disadvantaged areas. The financial correction for the north-east region is € 8,435,883.80 and for the north-west is €18,035,904.26. As the commission recognises we have worked hard to answer their concerns and there is no question of fraud or misuse of funds. These corrections are substantially reduced from the commission's original findings as a result of the challenge we have offered in documentation and in strong representations at oral hearings.

We have made provision in our departmental accounts for these corrections. There will therefore be no impact on other priority areas of work, and I can also confirm that no local project will lose out or be asked to contribute given the length of time which has elapsed since projects started.

DEFENCE

NATO Defence Ministerials (Krakow)

The Secretary of State for Defence (Mr. John Hutton): I attended an informal meeting of NATO Defence Ministers in Krakow, Poland on 19 and 20 February. It was in many ways a preparatory meeting for the NATO summit to be held in Strasbourg and Kehl next month. Ministers considered the progress being made on NATO's wide-ranging transformation agenda, including the UK/French helicopter initiative, reforms to NATO's command structures, ways of improving the way the headquarters in Brussels does its business, and work to make the NATO response force more sustainable. In the context of the latter, I introduced a proposal for a rapidly deployable alliance solidarity force for collective defence. This proposal will now be taken forward in the wider work on the NATO response force.

There were two sessions on operations: one as allies, and a wider discussion on Afghanistan with International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) contributing nations, Kai Eide (the UN Secretary-General's Special Representative) and General Wardak (the Afghan Defence Minister). Ministers welcomed the US announcement of increased force contributions to ISAF, reviewed ISAF's expanded role in counter-narcotics, and agreed the need for a civil "surge" to accelerate development activities, and support for the Afghan Government. Ministers also welcomed agreement that another standing NATO maritime group will contribute in the coming months to the wider international efforts to fight piracy off the coast of Somalia.

Krakow concluded with meetings of the NATO-Ukraine Commission and the NATO-Georgia Commission, in which Defence Ministers were updated on Ukraine's and Georgia's progress against their annual national plans.

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Animal Health (England)

The Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Hilary Benn): I am today announcing publication of a consultation document inviting views on the Government's proposals to establish a new independent body for animal health in England.

No one wants animal disease outbreaks, with the resultant suffering or even death of the animals affected and the lost production and income for their owners. Some animal diseases can also pose a threat to public health.

Owners and keepers of animals have the primary responsibility for the health of their own animals and preventing the risk of any diseases they incur spreading to other animals or into the food chain. But preventing, controlling and eradicating some diseases often requires Government action which can disrupt normal business (particularly in the livestock sector) and interfere with people's everyday lives. These measures can be costly for the Government to implement and costly to those affected. They are justified by the benefit of avoiding the greater impact and costs from the diseases themselves.

Some of these benefits are gained by taxpayers generally (through protection of public health). But in many cases (such as foot and mouth disease or bluetongue) the main benefits are to the owners of the livestock who might otherwise become infected.

Much of the livestock industry has called publicly for changes in the way animal health policies are determined. The Government have been discussing many of these issues with industry since Sir Iain Anderson's inquiry into the foot and mouth outbreak in 2001. Following the Government's consultation document published in December 2007, policy options have been discussed with stakeholders and in the UK Responsibility and Cost Sharing Consultative Forum, which concluded its deliberations in July this year. These proposals build on the outcomes of this engagement with stakeholders and have benefited from the constructive challenge of the England implementation group.

The Government are seeking views on two fundamental changes to modernise the governance and funding of animal health policy: first, the establishment of a separate body for animal health in England run by an independent non-executive board including knowledge and experience from across the spectrum of interests in animal health; and secondly, a levy raised from livestock keepers according to the numbers and type of animals kept.

The proposed new body will provide greater transparency in decision making and increase confidence in the resultant policies. The body will continue to receive public funding for the bulk of its activities. The levy will be used to contribute to the costs of preparing for, and dealing with, exotic disease outbreaks. Those who gain from the eradication of these diseases will help pay for the costs of doing so, as Sir Iain Anderson recommended.

In setting up a new framework it is important to retain and build on the strengths of the current system. These include the effective protection of public health in partnership with the Food Standards Agency and the Department of Health; the partnership working with industry already developed, for example in tackling bluetongue; the veterinary and scientific expertise in DEFRA and its agencies; and the delivery capability of the Animal Health Executive Agency, as well as close co-operation with the devolved Administrations.

The fundamental changes proposed will require primary legislation. In the light of responses to this consultation the Government intend to prepare a draft Bill for consultation and scrutiny.

The consultation document sets out our proposals in greater detail and is accompanied by a partial impact assessment. But there is much still to be decided. Views and comments are invited to help develop these ahead of draft legislation.

These proposals should establish a governance and funding structure for tackling animal diseases that helps to reduce the risks and costs; creates confidence in the policies decided; and ensures those who benefit share the costs with taxpayers.

This consultation concerns England although it is proposed that the new organisation will take on the UK and GB responsibilities currently undertaken by DEFRA. I intend to continue discussions with ministerial colleagues in other parts of the UK to ensure continued co-operation and co-ordination on animal disease policies.

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

Colombia

The Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs (David Miliband): The UK Government's work in Colombia makes a significant and positive impact. To make it more effective and relevant, we are changing the way we deliver our objectives. I wish to inform the House of these changes.

Colombia's strengths and progress over recent years are being undermined by continuing problems of abuse of human rights, poverty and inequality, impunity and the drugs trade. The Colombian people do not want conflict. Illegal armed, terrorist and guerrilla groups continue to kill and abuse, and have no place in a democratic society. We support the Colombian Government's determination to tackle these groups in accordance with international humanitarian law, including addressing the drugs trade that causes significant health, social and environmental harm to both of our countries.

Our policy needs to take full account of these challenges. We have therefore reviewed and are reprioritising what we are doing in Colombia. The changes we are making will give new focus to the UK's contribution to peace, prosperity and justice for Colombia's people, to the mutual benefit of both our countries.

Counter-Narcotics

We will continue our important counter-narcotics work in Colombia, including supporting projects totalling over £900,000 of the UN Office of Drugs and Crime in Bogota. Our capacity building work in Colombia is helping to bring down trafficking networks, put those involved in jail, seize cocaine destined for the UK, disrupt traffickers' financing networks, and seize the proceeds of their crimes. It is vital that we continue it.

Impunity

We will make tackling impunity a priority, and have allocated £250,000 next financial year for projects in this area implemented by the UK and other partners. Too many people in Colombia commit crimes without fear of justice or punishment, and our work will aim to help the Colombian criminal justice system develop its ability to tackle impunity.

Human rights and humanitarian demining engagement with the Colombian armed forces

We have achieved our objective of helping the Colombian Government develop a roadmap to promote their military's adherence to international humanitarian law. The Government share the concerns of many in the House that there are officers and soldiers of the Colombian armed forces who have been involved in, or allowed, abuses. The challenge for the Colombian Government is to ensure the strategic human rights principles we have helped to promote are embedded and consistently practised by all members of their armed services. We will continue to offer our political, and, where possible, financial and practical support to UN projects that aim to help promote human rights adherence within the Colombian armed forces. Our bilateral human rights projects with the Colombian Ministry of Defence will cease.

The UK's humanitarian demining training has contributed significantly to the removal of the landmines that kill and maim innocent Colombians. We now plan to integrate this work more fully with that of international governmental and non-governmental partners.

Human rights and promoting civil society

We will continue our work on strengthening human rights, promoting civil society and supporting human rights defenders. We support a large number of projects in areas such as freedom of speech, democracy and tackling discrimination. For example, we have recently supported a UN project to improve criminal prosecution of sexual crimes committed against women and girls, and we are working with journalists in Colombia to improve capacity for investigative journalism in conflict and peace issues. Projects already approved for the next financial year and beyond total almost £1 million and a further £170,000 is to be allocated for human rights projects. With British trade union partners, we will continue to look at ways in which the UK can promote labour relations in Colombia. The Department for International Development's (DFID) Latin America Partnership Programme Arrangement, worth £13 million per year for the region, will also focus on promoting more accountable public and political systems and on HIV and AIDS, climate change and giving poor and marginalised people a greater voice. DFID also provides substantial contributions to the European Commission and international financial institutions' aid programmes in Colombia—in 2007-08 this totalled £3.1 million.

Working with EU and other partners, we will continue to encourage a stronger relationship between the Colombian Government and civil society. Our staff in Colombia meet with many who have received threats, and will continue to do so.

Our ongoing work in Colombia on other issues, including addressing climate change (where our regional projects that include Colombia total £900,000) and promoting trade and investment, will continue.

FCO Services

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs (Gillian Merron): My noble Friend the Minister of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, Lord Malloch-Brown has made the following written ministerial statement:

FCO Services operates as a trading fund of the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO). I have set the following performance targets for 2009-10:

An in-year surplus before interest and tax of at least £2.9 million.

A return on capital employed of at least 3.5 per cent. (weighted average).

Wider market revenue growth of 10 per cent. on that achieved in 2008-09.

A contribution to the FCO's comprehensive spending review commitments by delivering £6 million of cumulative cash savings over the two years 2008-09 and 2009-10.

A utilisation rate for revenue earning staff of at least 75 per cent.

A customer satisfaction rating of at least 85 per cent. satisfied or very satisfied.

FCO Services will report to Parliament on its success against these targets through its annual report for 2009-10.

HEALTH

Health and Adult Social Care

The Minister of State, Department of Health (Mr. Ben Bradshaw): Today I am publishing a consultation document, which is the latest stage in the development of the new system we are introducing for the regulation of health and adult social care.

The publication, "Response to consultation on the framework for the registration of health and adult social care providers and consultation on draft regulations" sets out our response to our previous consultation, "The future regulation of health and adult social care in England: A consultation on the framework for the regulation of health and adult social care". It describes the new registration framework for the new Care Quality Commission, to be introduced from April 2010. It also launches a new consultation on the content of the draft regulations.

From 1 April 2009, the Care Quality Commission will take over from the Healthcare Commission, the Commission for Social Care Inspection and the Mental Health Act Commission.

For 2009-10, the new commission will continue to regulate adult social care and private and voluntary healthcare under the terms of the Care Standards Acts 2000. Also in 2009-10, it will regulate national health service providers against regulations made under the Health and Social Care Act 2008 (the 2008 Act) relating to healthcare associated infections, which were recently approved by Parliament.

From April 2010, the commission will operate a new registration system based on regulations to be made under the 2008 Act. It is the content of these regulations we are now consulting on.

The draft regulations set out who needs to register with the new commission (scope of registration) and what they need to do to register and remain registered (registration requirements).

The new approach will mean that patients and people using services will have the same level of assurance of the quality and safety of their care and treatment, whether it is being provided by the NHS, local government or the independent sector.

The registration requirements are designed to address the concerns of people using health and adult social care services, covering the topics on which they want assurance. They provide clarity about the essential levels of safety and quality all providers must deliver for people who use their services, without being prescriptive about how providers run their services.

The registration system will operate alongside a wider quality improvement framework that encourages not just good care, but excellent care. The commission will have a role in contributing to ongoing quality improvement as part of the wider quality framework, particularly through its publication of comparable information in periodic reviews, and its power to conduct special reviews into areas of particular interest.

Regulation plays a vital role within the Government's drive to make quality the organising principle of care. "High quality care for all" set out that vision for the NHS, but the underpinning ambition and principles apply equally across all forms of health and adult social care. The White Paper: "Our health, our care, our say: a new direction for community services" (January 2006), which is available in the Library, described the framework that is now used for promoting quality in adult social care services and set out the seven key outcomes that adult social care should deliver.

This publication will be of interest to anyone providing or working in health and adult social care, and to patients and people using services, who are interested in how the reforms are going to improve these services.

Today's publication has been placed in the Library and copies are available to hon. Members from the Vote Office.

JUSTICE

Her Majesty's Courts Service

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Justice (Bridget Prentice): The following list of key performance indicators has been set for Her Majesty's Courts Service for 2009-2010:

To commence 78 per cent. of cases within the following time scales in the Crown court:

defendants' cases that are sent for trial within 26 weeks of sending;

defendants' committal for trial cases within 16 weeks of committal;

appeals within 14 weeks of the appeal being lodged; and

committals for sentence within 10 weeks of committal.

To speed up criminal cases in the magistrates courts so that, for charged cases, the average time from charge to disposal is less than six weeks.

Time taken to produce and send court results to the police:

95 per cent. of court registers produced and despatched within three working days.

100 per cent. of court registers produced and despatched within six working days.

To achieve an 85 per cent. payment rate for financial penalties in the magistrates courts.

For 60 per cent. of all breached community penalties to be resolved within 25 working days of the relevant failure to comply.

To increase the proportion of defended small claims that are completed otherwise than by court hearing to 65 per cent.

To increase the proportion of defended small claims that are completed (from receipt to final hearing) within 30 weeks to at least 70 per cent.

To increase the amount of civil work initiated online—65 per cent. of eligible possession claims through possession claim online and 75 per cent. of specified money claims through money claim online and via the Claims Production Centre.

To ensure that 48 per cent. of care and supervision cases in the county court and 56 per cent. in the magistrates court are completed within 40 weeks.

To maintain the "very satisfied" element of the HMCS court user satisfaction survey at or above the 2007- 08 baseline of 41 per cent.

More information on these and other key supporting targets are published in the "HM Courts Service Business Plan for 2009-10". Copies of the business plan for 2009-10 have been placed in the Libraries of both Houses. Copies are also available in the Vote Office and the Printed Paper Office.

Written Ministerial Statements

Tuesday 31 March 2009

BUSINESS, ENTERPRISE AND REGULATORY REFORM

Insolvency Service (Performance Targets 2009-10)

The Minister for Employment Relations and Postal Affairs (Mr. Pat McFadden): I have today agreed to the publishing of the Insolvency Service's corporate plan for the period 2009-12.

Because of the current uncertainty in the economy the Insolvency Service is currently planning to deal with a level of new compulsory insolvency cases within a range of 86,000 to 92,600. The service is also planning to deal with a range of 180,000 to 220,000 redundancy payments and other insolvency-related claims during 2009-10.

The service's "Enabling the Future" strategy, a major programme of IT-led investment, will deliver savings over the period of the current comprehensive spending review. I have set the service a target to have reduced its case administration fees by 15 per cent. in real terms by 31 March 2011.

Action will continue to be taken against bankrupts and company directors in respect of financial misconduct or dishonesty and the service's companies investigation branch will continue to investigate the affairs of companies in the public interest. I have asked the service to maintain the level of enforcement outputs achieved in 2008-09 during 2009-10 and I have also set a target in relation to the timeliness of instigating disqualification proceedings in appropriate cases. The service will also be commissioning a new stakeholder survey in 2009-10 with a view to setting a new stakeholder satisfaction target for confidence in its enforcement regime in 2010-11.

I have set targets in relation to the timeliness of processing claims for redundancy payments and in relation to the overall satisfaction levels of the service's users.

The corporate plan is available at: http://www.insolvency.gov.uk/aboutus/CorporatePlan.pdf

I will place a copy of the corporate plan in the Libraries of both Houses.

Published Targets	*Target - 2009-10*	*Target - 2008-09*
Lower the fees for insolvency case administration in real terms from the 2007-08 level by 2010-11	15% (3 Year Target)	15% (3 Year Target)
User Satisfaction Index	90%	92%
Maintain the quantity of enforcement outputs in 2009-10 at 2008-09 levels*	3,800 to 4,220	N/a
To maintain the average time from insolvency order to the instigation of disqualification proceedings in appropriate cases	20 Months	20 Months
Process Redundancy Payment claims for payment within: 3 Weeks 6 Weeks	78% 92%	78% 92%

The enforcement outputs included in this target are bankruptcy restrictions, company director disqualifications, investigations into live companies, and criminal referrals.

In addition to these targets the service is required to meet centrally promulgated targets relating to replying to correspondence from hon. Members and making payments to suppliers. The service will also look to maintain charter mark and Investors in People accreditation following reassessments during 2009-10.

Other Targets	*Target - 2009-10*	*Target - 2008-09*
Reply to correspondence from Members of Parliament within 10 days	100%	100%
Process payments to suppliers within 30 days	100%	100%

In addition to the central target to pay 100 per cent. of invoices within 30 days, the Government have also instructed Departments and agencies to maximise levels of payment of undisputed invoices within eight days.

Regional Development Agencies

The Minister for Employment Relations and Postal Affairs (Mr. Pat McFadden): My right hon. and noble Friend the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform has made the following statement.

It is 10 years since the RDAs were set up, as business-led organisations, to promote enterprise throughout the country and drive up economic growth in their regions. They provide regional economic leadership, co-ordinate strategy, deliver vital programmes to provide real help to people and business today, invest for our future, and help join up the full range of public sector economic activity in the region. They have brought inward investment successes to the regions and worked closely with UKTI in supporting the growth of UK businesses through international trade. They also lead the regional response in times of economic difficulty, offering real help now to businesses and people to support them through the downturn and ensure they are well placed to respond to the opportunities in the recovery.

The independent performance assessments carried out in 2006-07 by the National Audit Office showed that all of the RDAs were operationally performing well or strongly. We now have an independent evaluation of the economic impact of RDAs, commissioned by BERR and RDAs and published today by PricewaterhouseCoopers, demonstrating the considerable success that RDAs have had in improving their region's economy. The PwC report finds that the RDAs add real value: supporting business, helping people to increase their employability and productivity, and investing in infrastructure and communities. PwC assessed that RDA programmes will generate at least £4.50 for every £1 spent over the programmes' lifetime. I have placed copies of the PwC report in the Library of the House.

All regions have significant centres of industrial strength and competitive advantage. For these centres to thrive and provide the foundation for our national economic success, national, regional and sub-regional bodies need to align their efforts to provide the best possible environment for business. The RDAs have a key leadership role. They catalyse investment in key infrastructure that will support the sustainable economic environment needed for the future. Through the funding they provide, the leadership they give, particularly in developing the new single regional strategy with the leaders boards, and their links with national and local partners, they have a prime role in delivering industrial policy, regenerating the economy, and moving to a low carbon economy. This delivery is built on RDAs' precise regional knowledge and their ability to engage and work with other regional and sub-regional partners to lever and powerfully align funding and priorities at the national, sub-regional and local level.

In current economic conditions, we need a relentless focus on helping business and fostering growth and jobs. RDAs will be developing a different strategic mix of investments and interventions for the short-term, the medium and longer-term. The new guidance for the single regional strategy to be issued in the summer is an opportunity to set out a clear national framework setting out how RDAs, with regional and local partners, will work together to deliver sustainable growth, housing and tackling climate change, including through the Solutions for Business portfolio.

I am asking the RDAs to focus, working with and through others:

> As an immediate priority, on providing assistance to business;
>
> for the medium-term, on stimulating the recovery and growth; and
>
> for the longer-term, on restructuring and developing each region's strengths, supporting its growth and competitiveness in the future.

Through such investment, businesses will not only survive but thrive, with more jobs and employment created for the people in all parts of the country. This will be delivered more successfully by aligning RDAs' business-focused capital expenditure with that of other bodies such as the Homes and Communities Agency, and sub-regional and local partners. Our ambition is to maximise economic benefits and through them the impact on people's life chances, by targeting investment firmly on regenerating and strengthening each region's economy.

The PwC report gives the RDAs and Government more widely, an opportunity to identify which types of investments and interventions have the greatest economic impact and in which circumstances. The evidence from the report will inform the conclusions of Public Value Programme review of RDAs to be announced in the Budget. More immediately, I have agreed with the RDAs that they should:

> Reprioritise and focus sharply on measures to help their regions through the downturn and prepare for the upturn. They will look at the strategic mix of their interventions and use the evaluation work to arrive at a programme with maximum impact in the short and medium term to address the acute problems of the present and to lay strong foundations for recovery.
>
> Ensure that robust mechanisms are in place uniformly across the network to embed learning from the evaluation into future investment planning and that experience is shared effectively across the RDA network. RDAs will also be working with BERR and others to produce new appraisal guidance which will set out a shared understanding of what, in the light of the evaluation, works well and what does not.
>
> Draw extensively on the evaluation results and other evidence to refine their investment frameworks, to help them choose between competing investment projects to maximise the economic return to the region and the national economy. The result will provide an even more robust basis for ensuring the effective use of funds, particularly in ensuring that investment in physical regeneration complements business investment.
>
> Update me on the immediate priorities they have agreed with their regional Ministers and partners and stakeholders such as the Homes and Communities Agency and local authorities. These should be set out in corporate plan updates so that there is clear visibility of everything they will be doing for the region over the period. This will provide the basis for more open and firmer performance management.

RDAs have agreed to provide detailed responses by the end of May.

TREASURY

Revenue Protection

The Financial Secretary to the Treasury (Mr. Stephen Timms): I can today announce the implementation of a measure consulted on during 2008 and a measure to protect revenues.

Simplification of standard method for calculating VAT

Effective from 1 April 2009, the Government announce changes to simplify the standard method for calculating VAT for partially exempt businesses.

The changes announced today follow consultation over the summer, and will benefit up to 120,000 businesses in the UK, by making it easier for them to operate the default standard method. I am today laying regulations to effect these changes.

Value Added Tax—anti-forestalling legislation

On 25 November 2008, I announced the Government's intention to introduce legislation as part of Finance Bill 2009 to protect the public finances from artificial avoidance which sought to exploit the change in the VAT rate (forestalling). That statement described the scope of the legislation, in particular the circumstances in which it was to apply, and set out that it would be effective from the date of the statement.

The draft legislation is today published for comment by HMRC. It includes further necessary measures to protect revenues, effective from today.

Business rates

In addition, I can confirm that the Chancellor of the Exchequer has today announced that the Department of Communities and Local Government will bring forward legislation to enable businesses to spread payment of the increase in business rates bills for 2009-10 over the three years to 2011-12. Business ratepayers in England will be able to defer payment of around £600 million across 1.6 million properties, easing cash flow in the current year. Further details of the announcement can be found at: www.communities.gov.uk.

CHILDREN, SCHOOLS AND FAMILIES

Young People's Learning Agency

The Minister for Schools and Learners (Jim Knight): The Apprenticeships, Skills, Children and Learners Bill will legislate for the creation of a new post—the chief executive of the Young People's Learning Agency; and to take over some of the functions of the Learning and Skills Council—which will be dissolved. The Bill will also legislate to confer new responsibilities on local authorities for the commissioning of education and training for young people aged 16 to 19. Subject to the passage of the Bill, these changes will take effect from April 2010.

The scale of the change that the Department is implementing is considerable. Some £7 billion per annum of public funding will be routed through the YPLA and local authorities for the provision of education and training to 16 to 19-year-olds. This new organisation will have a major role to play in ensuring the provision of education and training for young people, and that strategic skills needs are met across the country. For such a large and complex transition it is imperative that DCSF seeks to minimise the risks around transition. In particular, that we allow time for the detailed new delivery arrangements to be designed, tested and established before the transfer. This will minimise the potential for there to be any risk to public funds; avoid any disruption in delivery of education and training; and thus sustain delivery against PSA targets.

With this in mind, we want the YPLA to work in 'shadow' arrangements with the LSC and local authorities before responsibility and staff are formally transferred in April 2010. The 'shadow' period will begin at the start of the 2009-10 academic year and will end when, subject to the passage of legislation, responsibility is formally transferred to the YPLA in April 2010.

Recruiting a chief executive as early in the transition year 2009-10 as possible, will be a crucial element of facilitating a successful move to the permanent new arrangements. If recruitment activity were not to begin until Royal Assent, which is due in autumn 2009, we would not be able to guarantee that a suitable candidate would be available to take up post by April 2010. Advertising early would enable the successful candidates to take up position early in the transition year as possible, which would enable us to involve them in the crucial work to

provide Ministers with assurance that the new YPLA will have the capacity to deliver on Government's ambition;

effectively manage the significant amounts of resource that they will be delegated; and

provide the leadership, strategy and operational plan so the YPLA is up and running from April 2010.

Parliamentary approval for additional resources of £80,000 for this new service will be sought in the main estimate for 2009-10 for DCSF. Pending that approval, urgent expenditure estimated at £80,000 will be met by repayable advances from the contingencies fund.

School Teachers' Review Body

The Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (Ed Balls): Part 1 of the 18th report of the School Teachers' Review Body (STRB) is being published today, covering a range of matters referred to them in June 2008. I am grateful for the careful consideration which the STRB has given to these matters. Copies of the report and of my detailed response to it are available in the Vote Office, the Printed Paper Office, the Libraries of the House and at www.teachernet.gov.uk/pay.

The STRB has recommended that teachers' pay be increased by 2.3 per cent. from 1 September 2009 without prejudice to the outcome of the part 2 report in June on the appropriateness of the pay award for September 2009 and 2010. In addition a further adjustment to pay scales for teachers in inner London is recommended for September 2009.

I am grateful to the STRB for these recommendations which will allow teachers to receive an increase in September 2009, pending the STRB's report in June, and I intend to accept these recommendations.

The STRB has recommended that new statements of responsibilities for all teachers are drawn up, separate from conditions of employment, taking account of draft statements that the STRB has produced, and that the current statements in the School Teachers' Pay and Conditions Document (STPCD) be removed.

I am grateful to the STRB for its consideration of this issue and for the work it has done to prepare draft statements. I agree that account should be taken of the STRB's draft statements for teachers as work develops in this area. I agree that existing statements within the STPCD should be replaced in due course. I also take the view that conditions of employment should be considered alongside revised statements of responsibilities.

The STRB has also made recommendations concerning the leadership group. In particular, it has recommended that certain interim arrangements for pay and conditions for leaders in the STPCD be changed to enable leaders to be paid for existing models of leadership in a consistent and transparent manner. STRB has also recommended that there should be a fundamental review of the system of reward for the leadership group.

I note the STRB's recommendation for changes to the pay and conditions for leaders and I agree that this work should be taken further by the STRB in the course of a future remit. I believe that this work should also link with work to develop a new set of professional responsibilities for all teachers.

The STRB has also made helpful recommendations concerning pay ranges for the Excellent Teachers Scheme, which I propose to accept, and concerning payments for teachers of pupils with special educational needs, including unattached teachers. My detailed response contains further information on all these issues.

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Fire Safety (Sub-surface Railway Stations)

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (Mr. Sadiq Khan): During 2004-05, the ninth report of the Select Committee on Regulatory Reform considered that the draft Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order should be amended to allow the Fire Precautions (Sub-surface Railway Stations) Regulations 1989 to remain in force. The 1989 regulations were brought into force as a result of the Fennell report into the tragic King's Cross underground fire in 1987. These apply in four fire and rescue authority areas: London, Merseyside, Tyne and Wear and West Midlands. The then Office of the Deputy Prime Minister agreed to retain these regulations until it published detailed guidance on the application of the order "to ensure public certainty and confidence".

The Department for Communities and Local Government published guidance for the transport premises in 2007. Furthermore, the Department addressed the Committee's concerns that the risk-assessment based regime provided under the order might not be suitable for the particular circumstances of sub-surface railway stations by conducting a review of the 1989 regulations to take account of the order. The purpose of the review was to ensure that the same level of fire safety was maintained. The Department undertook this in partnership with trade union representatives, train operators and enforcing authorities and determined that a number of provisions in the 1989 regulations were adequately covered by the order but that some were not. On the basis of this work, the Department carried out a full public consultation on the proposed revised regulations for fire safety on sub-surface railway stations. The Government response was published in December 2008 and confirmed that the 1989 regulations would be revoked and remade to take account of the order. We have taken this opportunity to modernise and simplify the drafting of the regulations where appropriate, without altering the level of fire safety at sub-surface railway stations.

In response to the Select Committee's particular concern about the absence of guidance specific to sub-surface railway stations issued by the Secretary of State, my Department has now published detailed guidance to accompany the Fire Precautions (Sub-surface Railway Stations) (England) Regulations 2009 which are laid today. The guidance has been written by technical experts and was overseen by a working group drawn from key stakeholder groups. The partnership was further extended by providing the wider group of stakeholders a chance to peer review the guidance in draft. To assist those affected by the change in the regulations, there will be a six-month transition period until the 2009 regulations come into force on 1 October 2009.

I am placing a copy of the guidance in the Library of the House.

DEFENCE

Iraq: Coalition Regional Commands

The Secretary of State for Defence (Mr. John Hutton): I should like to make a statement on the restructuring of coalition regional commands in southern Iraq.

The House will be aware from my statement of 25 November 2008, *Official Report*, column 57WS and the Foreign Secretary's statement of 25 March 2009, *Official Report*, column 326 that coalition forces providing support to the Iraqi security forces in the area south of Baghdad have to date been organised into two multinational areas: Multi-National Division South-East under UK leadership covering Basra province, and MND Centre under US leadership, covering the other eight Iraqi provinces. As indicated in those two statements, in future only a single Multi-National Division headquarters will be required south of Baghdad.

Due to the improved security situation and the continued demonstration by the Iraqi security forces that they are able to deliver security in southern Iraq with only minimal coalition assistance, the anticipated change in coalition command structures has taken place today. MND South-East and MND Centre have been merged to create a new Multi-National Division area, MND South. The headquarters for MND South will be located on the site of the contingency operating base outside Basra, and will provide support to the Iraqi security forces under US leadership across all nine provinces in southern Iraq.

UK forces from 20 Armoured Brigade will complete their remaining military tasks in southern Iraq as part of MND South and then withdraw before the end of July. We have also deployed logistics specialists in order to support the withdrawal. US forces in southern Iraq will continue to focus on their training of the Iraqi police and Department of Border Enforcement and on supporting the overall coalition mission in Iraq, including through the protection of key supply routes.

We are currently discussing with the Government of Iraq the precise scope of the military training that they would like the UK to provide as part of the enduring, broad-based bilateral relationship with Iraq, which the Prime Minister outlined on 18 Dec[illegible]008, *Official Report*, columns 1233-35. On current plans, this would see fewer than 400 UK service personnel remaining in Iraq beyond 31 July 2009. Details of the specific military units that will be involved will be made available in due course on the MOD's website: www.mod.uk.

Warship Support Modernisation Initiative

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Defence (Mr. Quentin Davies): Support arrangements at Her Majesty's naval base (HMNB) Devonport, as with the other two naval bases, are vital in the base's effective day-to-day running which in turn helps ensure a first-class service is provided to the Royal Navy.

These support arrangements are provided at HMNB Devonport under an incentive-based partnering arrangement—known as the Warship Support Modernisation Initiative (WSMI) agreement—between the MOD and one of its key maritime industrial partners, Babcock. These arrangements, which have been in place since 2002, provide essential engineering, logistics, infrastructure and waterfront services to the operational fleet at HMNB Devonport.

I am pleased to announce to the House today that we have renewed the WSMI agreement with Babcock for the provision of these services at HMNB Devonport until 2013. Worth approximately £559 million, this new four-year contract builds on the proven value for money solution and secures hundreds of jobs in the Devonport and wider Plymouth area. The duration of this renewed contract brings the WSMI arrangements at Devonport in to line with those at the other two naval bases. WSMI services are currently provided at HMNB Clyde by Babcock and at HMNB Portsmouth by BVT Surface Fleet Limited; both arrangements are scheduled to expire in 2013.

Armed Forces' Pay Review Body

The Secretary of State for Defence (Mr. John Hutton): The 2009 report of the Armed Forces' Pay Review Body (AFPRB) has now been published. I wish to express my thanks to the chairman and members of the review body for their report. I am pleased to confirm that the AFPRB's recommendations are to be accepted in full, with implementation effective from 1 April 2009.

In line with the AFPRB recommendations, the basic military salary for officers and all other ranks will increase by 2.8 per cent. The rates of specialist pay (including flying pay, submarine pay and diving pay) will also increase by 2.8 per cent. The Government have also accepted the AFPRB recommendations on a number of targeted financial measures, including a minimum pay increase on promotion to the rank of Sergeant and Petty Officer of 5 per cent. and a reduction in the qualifying period between each level of longer separation allowance. The AFPRB, meanwhile, has endorsed the improved commitment bonus arrangements.

Copies of the Armed Forces' Pay Review Body report are available in the Vote Office and the Library of the House.

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

South Downs National Park

The Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Hilary Benn): I am pleased to announce my decision on the establishment of the South Downs national park.

I have carefully considered both of the inspector's reports on the public inquiries into the South Downs National Park (Designation) Order 2002, as varied, made by the Countryside Agency under the provisions of the National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act 1949. In line with the inspector's recommendations, I have decided that the area now proposed for designation meets the criteria for a national park, subject to modifications, and should be managed by a National Park Authority to be established under the provisions of the Environment Act 1995. I therefore intend to confirm the designation order, with modifications, so creating the South Downs national park.

The inspector recommended the deletion of some areas within Natural England's proposed designation, and recommended adding others. Full details of my intended boundary, subject only to the new additions referred to below, will be released in my decision letter today, a copy of which, together with an illustrative map, will appear on my Department's website. Copies of the inspector's latest report, addendum, illustrative map and my decision letter will be placed in the Libraries of both Houses.

There are five "new" additional areas recommended by the inspector, which were not consulted upon between the two inquiries, as well as one other "new" additional area which I believe warrants further consideration/inclusion. Depending on the outcome of these there may be one further deletion.

Under the provisions of the National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act 1949, details of the proposed new additions to the designation order boundary will be made available to the public to enable any objections, representations and comments to be made. This period will last for 12 weeks. Details of where and when details of the proposed additions can be viewed, and the time limits for the receipt of objections, representations and comments, will be advertised shortly in the national and local press. I will consider all duly made objections, representations and comments and if necessary call a public inquiry or a hearing to consider them. When the boundary is finalised, I will announce the confirmation of the designation order with its final modifications as well as the date for the creation of the South Downs national park.

When I confirm the designation order, I intend also to confirm the orders made by the Countryside Agency to revoke both the East Hampshire area of outstanding natural beauty and the Sussex Downs area of outstanding natural beauty, to coincide with the national park coming into being. The South Downs national park as now indicated would cover over 99 per cent. of the land currently designated as areas of outstanding natural beauty and it would be inappropriate to have concurrent national landscape designations.

Following the conclusion of the further steps required to confirm the designation order, I propose to bring forward an order under the provisions of the Environment Act 1995 to create a national park authority. I expect the new authority to be established from April 2010 and to take on its full range of statutory powers and functions from 1 April 2011.

Departmental Expenditure Limits

The Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Hilary Benn): I wish to announce that for 2008-09 DEFRA will switch £20 million available near cash resource DEL budget to cover a forecast deficit against its capital DEL control total, in accordance with HM Treasury's consolidated budgetary guidance. Although the financial out-turn for the year is not final, the current assessment of the required switch is £20 million. The movement in spend from near cash resource DEL to capital DEL is in respect of flood defences where the exact nature and classification of the expenditure is determined by the Environment Agency, as they undertake the work.

	Change		*New DEL*		*£000*
	Voted	*Non-voted*	*Voted*	*Non-voted*	*Total*
Resource DEL	—	-20,000	4,050,855	-1,382,984	2,667,871
of which:					
Administration budget[1]	—	—	*310,583*	—	*310,583*
Near-cash in RDEL	—	*-20,000*	*3,829,710*	*-1,466,278*	*2,363,432*
Capital DEL [2]	—	20,000	259,902	358,939	618,841
Less Depreciation [3]	—	—	-96,949	-99,799	-196 748
Total	—	—	4,213,808	-1,123,844	3,089,964

[1] The total of 'Administration budget' and 'Near-cash in Resource DEL' figures may well be greater than total resource DEL, due to the definitions overlapping.

[2] Capital DEL includes items treated as resource in estimates and accounts but which are treated as capital DEL in budgets.

[3] Depreciation, which forms part of resource DEL, is excluded from total DEL since capital DEL includes capital spending and to include depreciation of those assets would lead to double counting.

HEALTH

NHS Foundation Trusts

The Minister of State, Department of Health (Mr. Ben Bradshaw): The Chairman of Monitor (the statutory name of which is the Independent Regulator of NHS foundation trusts) has announced that, in accordance with section 35 of the National Health Service Act 2006, Monitor has decided to authorise the following NHS trusts as NHS foundation trusts from 1 April;

Calderstones NHS Trust; and
Hampshire Partnership NHS Trust

Monitor's announcement brings the total number of NHS foundation trusts operating in England to 117. A copy of Monitor's press notice has been placed in the library.

The Government remain committed to offering all NHS acute and mental health trusts the opportunity to attain the NHS foundation trust standard as soon as practicable. Monitor is authorising NHS foundation trusts on a monthly basis, and further groups of authorisations are set to follow.

Review Body on Doctors' and Dentists' Remuneration

The Secretary of State for Health (Alan Johnson): I am responding on behalf of my right hon. Friend the Prime Minister to the 38th Report of the Review Body on Doctors' and Dentists' Remuneration (DDRB), Cm 7579, which has been laid before Parliament today. Copies of the report are available in the Vote Office and the Library of the House. I am grateful to the chair and members of the Review Body for their hard work.

The DDRB has recommended that the national salary scales for all salaried doctors and dentists, and the top and bottom of the salary range for salaried general medical practitioners, should be increased by 1.5 per cent. for 2009-10. For independent contractor general dental practitioners (GDPs), the DDRB has recommended a 0.21 per cent. increase in contract values which the DDRB intend to result in an increase in GDPs' net income of 1.5 per cent. With regard to independent contractor general medical practitioners (GMPs), DDRB have recommended an increase in contractual payments to practices of 2.29 per cent. designed to result in an increase of 1.5 per cent. in GMPs' average net income.

The DDRB's pay recommendations have been accepted in full by the Government.

INNOVATION, UNIVERSITIES AND SKILLS

Skills Funding (Chief Executive)

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills (Mr. Siôn Simon): The Apprenticeships, Skills, Children and Learners (ASCL) Bill will legislate for the creation of a new post of Chief Executive of Skills Funding, to take over most of the post 19 education and training functions of the Learning and Skills Council (LSC), which will be dissolved. The chief executive will lead a new Skills Funding Agency, and will be responsible for some £5 billion a year of public funding. This change will take effect from April 2010, subject to the successful passage of the Bill.

The move to the new arrangements will be complex, and it is essential to minimise the potential for any risk to public funds or disruption in education and training delivery. Early recruitment of a chief executive will reduce the set up cost for the Skills Funding Agency. It will also facilitate a successful move to the new arrangements. It is for these reasons that the Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills is seeking a contingency fund advance of £77,000 to begin the chief executive recruitment process so the successful candidate can take up their position as early in the transition year (2009-10) as possible.

Parliamentary approval for additional resources of £175,000 for this new service will be sought in the main estimate for 2009-10 for the Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills. Pending that approval, urgent expenditure estimated at £77,000 will be met by repayable cash advances from the contingency fund.

JUSTICE

Optional Protocol to the Convention Against Torture (OPCAT)

The Minister of State, Ministry of Justice (Mr. Michael Wills): The Optional Protocol to the Convention Against Torture (OPCAT), which the UK ratified in December 2003, requires states party to establish a "national preventative mechanism" to carry out a system of regular visits to places of detention in order to prevent torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment.

OPCAT provides that a national preventative mechanism may consist of one body or several. The Government intend that the requirements of OPCAT be fulfilled in the UK by the collective action of existing inspection bodies.

I am designating the following bodies to form the UK NPM. If it is necessary in future to add new inspection bodies to the NPM, or if bodies within the NPM are restructured or renamed, I will notify Parliament accordingly.

England and Wales

Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Prisons (HMIP)
Independent Monitoring Boards (IMB)
Independent Custody Visiting Association (ICVA)
Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary (HMIC)
Care Quality Commission (CQC)
Healthcare Inspectorate of Wales (HIW)
Children's Commissioner for England (CCE)
Care and Social Services Inspectorate Wales (CSSIW)
Office for Standards in Education (OFSTED)

Scotland

Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Prisons for Scotland (HMIPS)
Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary for Scotland (HMICS)
Scottish Human Rights Commission (SHRC)
Mental Welfare Commission for Scotland (MWCS)
The Care Commission (CC)

Northern Ireland

Independent Monitoring Boards (IMB)
Criminal Justice Inspection Northern Ireland (CJINI)
Regulation and Quality Improvement Authority (RQIA)
Northern Ireland Policing Board Independent Custody Visiting Scheme (NIPBICVS)

Office of the Public Guardian

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Justice (Bridget Prentice): The Office of the Public Guardian (OPG) supports the Public Guardian in discharging his statutory duties under the Mental Capacity Act 2005.

The following list sets out the key performance targets that have been set for the Office of the Public Guardian for the year 2009-10.

KPI 1: Lasting Power of Attorney/Enduring Power of Attorney

Register and return 95 per cent. of applications for registration of attorneyship (LPA/EPA) within eleven weeks of receipt, improving performance to achieve 80 per cent. within eight weeks by the end of the financial year. This measure excludes applications that cannot be registered; for example where an objection is received prior to registration, or where the application is flawed and cannot be corrected. For the purposes of measurement, 11 weeks and eight weeks will be calculated on the basis of 55 and 40 working days respectively. The KPI has been simplified this year to amalgamate the registration and return processes in one target. It has been necessary to review the overall target because of the unexpectedly high volumes of applications received.

KPI 2: Supervision of Deputies

All deputyship cases require the allocation of a supervision regime based on risk assessment. Risk criteria include: whether a deputy has been refused credit or is an un-discharged bankrupt; whether a deputy has any financial interests which conflict with those of the client; the value of the client's estate; the relationship of the deputy to the client and any objections which were made to the appointment of the deputy.

This year's time scale to notify new deputies within 30 days has been decreased for 2009-10 to within 20 working days. This will improve service to the customer.

KPI 3: Supervision of Deputies— Case review

A new supervision level of deputies has been introduced following the review of the implementation of the MCA. The four supervision levels are: close supervision; intermediate; light touch and minimal.

Some 10,000 cases that require intermediate and light touch supervision will be subject to a case review during 2009-10 under KPI 3. Last year the target was to review 4,000 cases of this type. This year's target will be stretching for the organisation but is achievable.

A case review could be a combination of: review of annual report; carrying out a visit; review of supervision level following short-term intervention.

KPI 4: Investigations

Upon receipt of an investigations case in the compliance and regulation unit it is allocated to a specific caseworker. At this point of allocation, the two-day target to assess risk begins. The three-month target to complete the investigation is inclusive of the two days in which the risk assessment and initial action are put in place.

a) We will assess risk in 95 per cent. of cases within two days.

b) 75 per cent. of investigations will be completed within three months.

The assessment of risk includes taking immediate action where appropriate.

KPI 5: Finance

Based on the statutory instrument for fees approved by Parliament, we will aim to achieve 100 per cent. full cost recovery.

Full cost is defined as:

The total cost of carrying out the provision of services to the taxpayer, less social subsidy/fee remission; financial losses over and above a yearly notional premium; in-year bad debts write-off and exceptional items.

Copies of the Office of the Public Guardian Framework Document and Business Plan will be available in the Libraries of both Houses and from the website of the OPG (www.publicguardian.gov.uk) from 31 March 2009.

LEADER OF THE HOUSE

Parliamentary Pensions

The Leader of the House of Commons (Ms Harriet Harman): The Government are committed to providing public service pension schemes that are affordable and sustainable in the long term, consistent with the principle of fairness for all taxpayers and between generations.

The Parliamentary and other Pensions Act 1987 requires the Government Actuary to make triennial reports on the financial position of the Parliamentary Contributory Pension Fund (PCPF). His latest report, dealing with the position of the fund as at 1 April 2008, is published today and a copy of the report "Parliamentary Contributory Pension Fund Valuation as at 1 April 2008: Report by the Government Actuary" [HC345] has been laid before the House. It includes his recommendation on the Exchequer contribution to be made to the fund, which the Act requires the Government to follow.

The House resolved on 24 January 2008 to endorse in principle recommendations contained in the report of the Review Body on Senior Salaries (SSRB) on parliamentary pay, pensions and allowances (Cm 7270-I) which capped the Exchequer contribution to the cost of accrual of benefits for MPs and advised that there should be a major review of the fund should it become likely that the Exchequer contribution rises to more than 20 per cent. of payroll. Both of these recommendations exclude payments to amortise the accumulated deficit identified in the 2005 valuation of the fund.

Following a warning from the Government Actuary that the Exchequer contribution was likely to rise beyond 20 per cent. of payroll, in line with the recommendation made by the SSRB and endorsed by the House, the Prime Minister on 13 February 2009 asked the SSRB to conduct a fundamental review of the pension provision for MPs, Ministers and other parliamentary office holders. The Prime Minister has asked the SSRB to consider the full range of options for reducing the Exchequer contribution and to consider, among other things, the merits of defined contribution or money purchase arrangements. We expect the SSRB to report later this year.

In the report published today, the Government Actuary has assessed that, since the last actuarial valuation in 2005, the underlying cost of benefits accruing under the parliamentary pension scheme has increased from 27.4 per cent. of the pensionable payroll of scheme members to 32.2 per cent. The main reason for the increase in cost is the fact that people are living longer, and pensions are therefore payable for longer. In common with the approach taken in many other pension schemes, the Government Actuary has changed his assumptions about how long people will live in the future. The Government Actuary has also assessed that the deficit in the fund (that is, the shortfall of assets to the estimated value of liabilities) and the contributions to amortise the deficit (that is, contributions to pay off the deficit over a period of 15 years) remain broadly the same as at the last valuation. Better investment returns and lower salary growth during the period 1 April 2005 to 31 March 2008 than had been assumed have been offset by the fact that the Government Actuary has assumed that people will live longer in the future. As a result, the deficit has increased from £49.5 million to £50.9 million.

The Government Actuary has recommended that the Exchequer contribution should be at the rate of 31.6 per cent. of payroll from 1 April 2009 "adjusted to take account of any increase in members' contributions and/or benefit reductions which the Government announce as a consequence of cost-sharing or cost-capping".

There are different ways in which the Exchequer contribution as recommended by the SSRB and endorsed by the House could be restricted. We shall be consulting the Trustees of the Parliamentary Contributory Pension Fund and the House of Commons on proposed changes.

The Government's preferred option to achieve the cap on the Exchequer contribution includes an increase in member contribution rates from 10 to 11.9 per cent. of salary (for an accrual rate of 1/40th), and from 6 to 7.9 per cent. (for 1/50th). This would mean that an MP on the 1/40th accrual rate would pay a net increase of around £60 per month on top of the current contribution of £316 per month. This means that the total annual contribution based on 2009-10 salary would be around £4,625. A member on the lower accrual rate would also pay a net additional contribution of around £60 per month. In addition we intend further to extend the cap on MPs' accrual, which is set at two thirds of final salary, to include MPs over age 65 who joined the scheme before 1 June 1989. Both changes would need to be backdated to 1 April 2009. Taken together these measures would mean that the Exchequer contribution remained within the cap recommended by the SSRB and endorsed by the House.

NORTHERN IRELAND

Police Recruitment Provisions (Northern Ireland)

The Minister of State, Northern Ireland Office (Paul Goggins): During consideration of the Police (Northern Ireland) Act 2000 (Renewal of Temporary Provisions) Order 2007 the Government undertook to return to the House on an annual basis and report on progress towards our target of 30 per cent. Catholic composition within regular officers in the police service of Northern Ireland.

Since the introduction of the temporary provisions in 2001 tremendous progress has been made towards a more representative police service and our ultimate goal of 30 per cent. Catholic composition. The Catholic composition of police officers has increased from just 8.3 per cent. at the time of the Patten report to 26.14 per cent. as of 12 March 2009. The number of Catholic applications to the PSNI has also risen significantly, with 42 per cent. of applicants in the last campaign being from the Catholic community. This is against 23.33 per cent. Catholic applications in the last campaign before the introduction of the temporary provisions.

In the 14 competitions run to date over 88,000 applications have been received from across the whole community. This figure reflects the fact that many people are ready to commit to a career in PSNI. The 15th recruitment campaign opened on 5 March and we are confident that it will again produce recruits of the highest calibre from across all sections of the community.

Female composition within PSNI has almost doubled, from 12 per cent. in 2001 to 23.43 per cent. today and there are currently 31 officers from an ethnic minority background including Pakistani, Black Caribbean, Chinese and Indian. The ethnic minority figures remain small in actual numbers but the 0.42 per cent. compares to the 0.67 per cent. composition of the ethnic minority working age population. A series of initiatives have been introduced to further increase the ethnic minority composition.

Catholic representation among civilian staff also continues to rise. The percentage of Catholic police support staff has increased from 12 per cent. at the time of the Patten report to 17.66 per cent. on 1 March 2009.

As set out in the St Andrews Agreement, the temporary 50:50 recruitment arrangements to the PSNI will lapse when the Government's target of 30 per cent. Catholic officers has been achieved. We are on course to reach this target by 2010-11.

PRIME MINISTER

Review Body on Senior Salaries

The Prime Minister (Mr. Gordon Brown): The 31st Report of the Review Body on Senior Salaries is being published today. In addition the Government intend to reform civil service severance and early retirement terms.

The Government are determined to reduce the costs of the civil service. Having achieved 86,700 workforce reductions and £26.5 billion of efficiency savings as part of the Gershon efficiency programme, the Government are going further to ensure that resources are focused on improving key front line public services. As well as delivering £35 billion of Value for Money gains by 2010-11 the Government will bear down on the cost of running Government, with -5 per cent. reductions in real terms in the cost of running Government in each of the next three years. Over the next few years the Government will continue to ensure that value for money is driven throughout all aspects of the public sector to support our drive to continue to improve key public services.

The Government therefore intend fundamentally to reform the severance and early retirement terms for all civil servants in order to control costs. The current arrangements have been in place since 1987 and are inflexible and expensive. The new terms require departments to reduce costs and will improve accountability and value for money for the taxpayer, saving up to £500 million over the next three years.

The report of the senior salaries review body makes recommendations about the pay of the senior civil service (SCS), senior military personnel, the judiciary and very senior NHS managers. Copies have been laid in the Vote Office and the Library of the House. I am grateful to the chairman and members of the review body for their work.

The Government have decided to accept some but not all of its recommendations. It is important in the present economic climate that senior staff in the public sector show leadership in the exercise of pay restraint.

Senior Civil Service

For 2009-10, the review body recommended a 2.1 per cent. increase in base pay and no increase to the size of the non-consolidated performance-related pay pot.

The review body has recommended that the maxima and minima for each pay band should be increased by approximately 2.1 per cent.

The Government have decided that base pay and the minima and maxima of each pay band will increase by 1.5 per cent. It has accepted the recommendation of no increase to the size of the non-consolidated performance-related pay pot. Permanent secretaries have already announced that they will forego such payments in 2009.

Senior Military Personnel

On senior military pay the review body has recommended that base pay for all senior military officers should increase by 2.8 per cent. from 1 April 2009.

The review body has recommended that the X-factor (a supplement to base pay in recognition of the differences between military and civilian life) should be paid at a rate of 25 per cent. of the full cash value to 2- and 3-star officers and that an appropriate differential should be re-established between 1- and 2-star medical and dental officers.

The Government have decided to accept the review body's recommendations on senior military pay.

Judiciary

The review body's main recommendation for the judiciary is an increase of approximately 2.6 per cent. for almost all judicial salaries.

The Government have decided that judicial salaries will increase by 1.5 per cent.

Very Senior NHS Managers

The review body has recommended an increase in base pay of 2.4 per cent. and no increase to the size of the non-consolidated pay pot.

The Government have decided that base pay will increase by 1.5 per cent. and have accepted the recommendation of no increase to the size of the non-consolidated pay pot.

Ministers

The changes to senior civil service pay mean that ministerial pay, which is linked by legislation to the average increase in the midpoint of senior civil service pay ranges, will increase by 1.5 per cent. However, given the importance of public sector pay restraint at a time of economic uncertainty salaried Ministers will not be accepting any pay rise in 2009-10, either in their ministerial pay or in their parliamentary pay.

WORK AND PENSIONS

Discretionary Social Fund

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (Kitty Ussher): The Secretary of State will be making changes to the discretionary social fund, with effect from 6 April 2009. The changes:

> aim to reduce inappropriate applications for a crisis loan for living expenses in respect of a period for which a payment has already been awarded. The consideration of such applications is now limited to those where the decision maker is satisfied that an event beyond a person's control has occurred.
>
> improve and speed up the Jobcentre Plus review process for both customers and staff.

I will deposit copies of the amended Social Fund Guide in the House Library.

Written Ministerial Statements

Wednesday 1 April 2009

TREASURY

Finance Bill Measures

The Financial Secretary to the Treasury (Mr. Stephen Timms): I can today announce the implementation of a measure following consultation and two measures to protect revenues.

Modernising tax relief for business expenditure on cars

Following consultation, the Government published draft legislation on 8 December 2008 setting out proposals for new rules for tax relief for business expenditure on cars. With effect from April, the rate of relief will be determined by the car's CO_2 emissions, rather than its cost. Associated rules governing the proportion of lease rental payments that may be deducted for tax, where businesses hire or lease their cars rather than buying them, are being similarly amended. I can confirm that this measure will be going ahead with effect from today for businesses in the charge to corporation tax and from 6 April for businesses within the charge to income tax. However, following comments received on the published draft legislation a number of changes to it are proposed. These, together with anti-avoidance provisions, are set out in revised legislation published on the HMRC website today.

Avoidance using life insurance policies

Schemes designed to avoid income tax have been identified by HMRC. The schemes purport to create income tax loss relief from offshore life insurance policies that can be set against other taxable income. The Government do not accept that the schemes have the effect sought or that there are any circumstances in which income tax loss relief can arise on life policies. However, to put the position beyond any doubt, legislation will be introduced in the forthcoming Finance Bill that will prevent income tax loss relief from being available from transactions on offshore life policies.

This change, effective from 6 April 2009, will ensure that claims cannot be made for income tax loss relief from offshore life insurance policies relating to the years 2009-10 onwards. Furthermore, it will ensure that tax deductions will not be allowed for the years 2009-10 onwards even if the loss related to a previous year.

The change will also have effect from today to all new offshore life insurance policies. It will also apply to existing offshore policies which on or after today are wholly or partly assigned to the person claiming a deduction, become used as security for a debt, or are varied so as to increase the benefits secured.

A copy of the draft legislation together with a draft explanatory statement will be published shortly on HMRC's website.

Avoidance using artificially created employment losses

The Government have become aware of a further artificial and aggressive avoidance scheme that seeks to abuse tax reliefs available for employment-related losses incurred by employees and former employees.

This scheme relies on deliberate default during the course of a contrived employment. During the course of the employment, the employer will deliberately default in relation to one or more aspects of certain financial arrangements undertaken by the employer. Under the terms of the employment, this will trigger compensation payable by the employer. The employee will be contractually obliged to suffer all or part of the compensation payable by the employer in respect of the default and will then claim relief for this as a loss against other income.

These arrangements are similar to the highly abusive avoidance scheme that the Government acted against with effect from 12 January 2009. The Government do not accept that any of these highly contrived arrangements have the effect that is sought, but will remove any doubt by introducing appropriate legislation in the Finance Bill 2009 to prevent loss relief being allowed where liabilities relating to an employment are incurred by employees and former employees with a main purpose of the avoidance of tax. This legislation will have effect from 12 January 2009.

The legislation will not affect genuine cases where tax avoidance arrangements are not involved.

Details are contained in a technical note; the note, the draft legislation relating to this announcement and the draft legislation relating to the earlier statement of 13 January 2009 are published on HMRC's website.

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Empowerment Fund

The Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (Hazel Blears): Last July, through the Empowerment White Paper, I outlined my proposals to support 20 to 25 third sector organisations through the Empowerment Fund. Today, I am pleased to announce to the House the twenty one third sector organisations that will receive grants under the Empowerment Fund. The aim of the Empowerment Fund is to provide stable and strategic funding to third sector organisations with national reach and help deliver on key themes within the White Paper.

The third sector organisations are:

Community Voices and Leadership Theme

Royal Association for Disability and Rehabilitation (RADAR)
The Young Foundation
Operation Black Vote
YWCA

Community and Social Media Theme

Tenant Participation Advisory Service (TPAS)
Media Trust

Community Development Theme

Community Matters
Novas Scarman
Workers Education Association
Sheila McKechnie Foundation
Royal Society for the encouragement of Arts, Manufactures and Commerce (RSA)

Social Enterprises

School for Social Entrepreneurs
Social Firms UK

Community Involvement in Planning

Centre for Sustainable Energy

Environmental Law Foundation

Carnegie

Action for Market Towns

Helping small organisations to work together

Housing Associations' Charitable Trust (HACT)

Oxfam

Improving communication between citizens and councillors

British Association of Settlements and Social Action Centres (Bassac)

Urban Forum

The Empowerment Fund will provide £9.25 million over three years paying grants of either £250,000 or £500,000. The security of a three year fund will help these organisations plan ahead with confidence and they will be expected to show how they make effective use of the financial assistance to expand their work.

This approach was developed in consultation with the relevant policy holders within the Department of Communities and Local Government, other Government Departments, and the third sector.

DEFENCE

Porton Down Volunteers

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Defence (Mr. Kevan Jones): In 2003 the Government commissioned, via the Medical Research Council, a large-scale and independent epidemiological study of the more than 19,000 UK service personnel who had taken part in human experiments at the Porton Down research establishment between 1939 and 1989. The study was completed in 2007, and the main findings on mortality and cancer incidence were published on 25 March by the British Medical Journal.

The researchers found no significant difference in overall cancer risk between those personnel who took part in the tests and similar personnel who did not. General mortality was slightly higher among the Porton Down veterans than the controls, but was lower in both groups than in the population at large. The authors state that it is not possible to attribute the small excess mortality to chemical exposures at Porton Down.

I welcome the publication of these findings, which fulfil the commitment made by this Government to investigate whether the long-term health of Porton Down veterans was degraded by their participation in the tests.

UK Gulf Veterans (Mortality Data)

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Defence (Mr. Kevan Jones): As part of the Government's continuing commitment to investigate Gulf veterans' illnesses openly and honestly, data on the mortality of veterans of the 1990-91 Gulf conflict are published regularly. The most recent figures for the period 1 April 1991 to 31 December 2008 are published today as a National Statistic Notice on the Defence Analytical Services and Advice website.

The data for Gulf veterans are compared to that of a control group known as the "Era cohort" consisting of armed forces personnel of a similar profile in terms of age, gender, service, regular/reservists status and rank, who were in service on 1 January 1991 but were not deployed to the Gulf. As in the previous release, the "Era" group has been adjusted for a small difference in the age-profile of those aged 40 years and over, to ensure appropriate comparisons.

Key points to note in the data are:

> There have been 997 deaths among the Gulf veterans and 1,008 in the age-adjusted Era comparison group.
>
> The 997 deaths among Gulf veterans compare with approximately 1,609 deaths which would have been expected in a similar sized cohort taken from the general population of the UK with the same age and gender profile. This reflects the strong emphasis on fitness when recruiting and retaining service personnel.

These statistics continue to confirm that UK veterans of the 1990-91 Gulf conflict do not suffer an excess of overall mortality compared with service personnel that did not deploy.

The full notice can be viewed at: http://www.dasa.mod.uk

HEALTH

Integrated Care

The Minister of State, Department of Health (Mr. Ben Bradshaw): Sixteen pilot sites that will test how best to bring health and social care services together in new ways to benefit patients are being announced today.

The pilots have been designed to look beyond traditional health and social care boundaries to explore how services for patients and service users can be improved. They will then assess the benefits of different models of care and identify any best practice that could be used more widely. The pilots will be supported by £4 million funding from the Department of Health.

Each site has developed a model of care to help respond to particular local health need in the community. The health issues being tackled in each pilot include dementia, care for older people, substance misuse, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD) and end of life care. The models of care involved vary widely; they include: partnerships, new systems and care pathways that span primary, community, secondary and social care.

The pilot sites are:

Bournemouth and Poole Teaching Primary Care Trust

Cambridge Assura Limited Liability Partnership

Church View Medical Practice, Sunderland

NHS Cumbria

Durham Dales Integrated Care Organisation

Nene Commissioning Community Interest Company

Newcastle Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust

Cornwall and Isles of Scilly Primary Care Trust

NHS Norfolk and Norfolk County Council

Northumbria Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust

North Cornwall Practice-Based Commissioning Group

Principia—Partners in Health, Nottinghamshire

NHS Tameside and Glossop

Torbay Care Trust

Tower Hamlets Primary Care Trust

Wakefield Integrated Substance Misuse Service

The pilots start today and will run for two years. They will be evaluated over three years against a set of national and local measures, including impact on health outcomes, improved quality of care, service user satisfaction, and effective relationships and systems.

Drug Tariff

The Minister of State, Department of Health (Phil Hope): As hon. Members will be aware, the Department has been carrying out a review of the arrangements under part IX of the Drug Tariff for the provision of stoma and urology appliances, and related services, in primary care. This is to advise the House of the outcome of the review.

Throughout phase 2, the Department's key aims have been to:

maintain and, where applicable, improve patient care;

ensure equitable payment to dispensing appliance contractors and pharmacy contractors for the provision of equivalent services; and

achieve transparency between what is paid for services and what is reimbursed for items.

The last consultation regarding the arrangements for the provision of stoma and urology appliances, and related services, in primary care closed in September 2008; a summary of the responses is available on the Department's website at: www.dh.gov.uk/en/Consultations/Responsestoconsultations/index.htm.

Our proposals have been amended, taking into account consultation responses. An overview of the new arrangements has been placed in the Library. In summary, the new arrangements look to:

define and standardise the services that both dispensing appliance contractors (DACs) and pharmacy contractors provide in the normal course of their business when dispensing Part IX A (catheter), part IX B and part IX C appliances. Essential services that must be provided include services such as a repeat prescription service, appropriate advice and a home delivery service—if the patient requests it. Advanced services, which DACs and pharmacy contractors may choose to provide, include stoma appliance customisation and appliance use reviews;

require appliance contractors to operate within a similar clinical governance framework to pharmacy contractors;

replace appliance contractor remuneration "on-cost" arrangements with fees and allowances, which will be laid out in the Drug Tariff;

introduce a funding uplift mechanism for remuneration for part IX related services that is similar to arrangements in place within the community pharmacy contractual framework;

apply a uniform reimbursement price reduction of 2 per cent. to the reimbursement prices of all items listed as of 31 March 2010 in the following sections of part IX of the Drug Tariff:

Part IXA catheters: urinary and urethral

all items listed in part IXB, which lists incontinence appliances; and

all items listed in part IXC, which lists stoma appliances;

allow manufacturers whose products have a combined net ingredient cost of less than £5.6 million a year to apply for an exemption from this reduction; and

introduce a reimbursement price increase mechanism for appliances supplied six months after the new arrangements come into effect.

To allow these new arrangements to be implemented, amendment regulations will be laid—and amendment directions made—at least six months before they come into force. Subject to this, the new arrangements will be implemented from 1 April 2010.

In addition to the new arrangements, the Department has decided that there will be a 4.4 per cent. uniform increase on the current on-cost percentage paid to DACs for a six-month period from October 2009 to March 2010. The increase recognises that, as the reimbursement price increase mechanism has been suspended since April 2006, the on-cost that DACs currently receive by way of remuneration for service provision, which is linked to reimbursement, has only increased in-line with related volume increases over the same period.

Meningitis C Vaccine

The Minister of State, Department of Health (Dawn Primarolo): On 27 February I advised the House of a recall of batches of a meningitis C vaccine, "Menjugate Kit", and said that I would provide a further statement when test results were available.

I am pleased to confirm that the manufacturer, Novartis Vaccines and Diagnostics, has conducted sterility tests of all recalled batches and they have proved sterile. The Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA) has also conducted its own independent tests which have confirmed the sterility of the vaccine.

It was right, on the evidence at the time and in the interests of public health, that the recall of the "Menjugate Kit" vaccine was made, as a precautionary measure. The results of these tests are reassuring, and confirm that the vaccine used in the UK was not contaminated.

The UK has a successful immunisation programme that protects children from serious disease. Parents should continue to have confidence in getting their children vaccinated against serious illnesses.

HOME DEPARTMENT

Race Relations

The Minister for Borders and Immigration (Mr. Phil Woolas): I have made an authorisation under section 19D of the Race Relations Act 1976, as amended, to enable the Secretary of State to request that asylum applicants claiming to be a Somali national submit to language analysis.

This authorisation replaces the Race Relations (Immigration and Asylum) (Language Analysis) Authorisation 2008 (5 June to 4 April 2009), which will expire on the latter date.

Language analysis carried out in 2008 for some Somali asylum applicants demonstrated that significant proportions of those tested had claimed to be of a nationality, or from a region or grouping, that was not their own in order to try to gain residence in this country. This authorisation will assist the Secretary of State to make decisions in individual cases, and to ascertain the extent of this abuse. It will also assist in deterring such asylum claims.

The Secretary of State may take a refusal to submit to testing into account when determining whether an applicant has assisted in establishing the facts of his case or her case.

The authorisation will remain in place for 12 months (until April 2010), at which point we will review whether it is still necessary and appropriate.

I am placing copies of the authorisation in the Libraries of both Houses of Parliament.

UK Border Agency

The Minister for Borders and Immigration (Mr. Phil Woolas): The UK Border Agency, which was established as a shadow executive agency in April 2008, will today begin to operate as a full executive agency of the Home Office. I am also publishing the UK Border Agency's Framework Agreement, which describes how the agency will be governed, and its business plan, which sets out the agency's objectives for the next three years. Copies of these documents have been made available in the Libraries of both Houses. The documents are also available on the Home Office website.

The move to full executive agency status is an important milestone in the development of the agency. It establishes a clear accountability framework within which the chief executive will have greater operational freedom to focus on delivering the agency's services. At the same time, the framework agreement ensures that the agency will continue to work closely with the wider Home Office and its key delivery partners, including HM Revenue and Customs, the Foreign and Commonwealth Office and the police. Later this year we hope, subject to the passage of the Borders, Citizenship and Immigration Bill, to complete the formal transfer of customs functions and staff from HM Revenue and Customs to the agency.

The agency will secure our borders and control migration for the benefit of our country and play a vital role in the Government's work to protect the public from crime and terrorism and to protect the tax revenues which pay for public services.

Visa Regimes

The Minister for Borders and Immigration (Mr. Phil Woolas): The Government are today announcing the dates of implementation of the visa regimes, announced in my right hon. Friend the Home Secretary's written statement to the House of 9 February 2009, *Official Report*, column 51WS. These tough new visa requirements will further strengthen the UK Border, while ensuring the UK continues to welcome genuine visitors.

Visa regimes for Bolivian and Venezuelan nationals will begin on Monday 18 May 2009. Venezuelan nationals holding valid biometric, machine readable passports will be exempt from the visa requirement. At the same time we will clarify how the visa exemption for Taiwan passport holders works—that it only applies to those with full Taiwan passports.

The temporary visa exemption for South African visitors with a previous travel history to the UK which began on 3 March will cease at midnight on 30 June 2009. From Wednesday 1 July 2009 all South African visitors to the UK will require a visa, as will visitors from Lesotho and Swaziland.

The new visa requirements mean that nationals from these countries wishing to visit the UK for up to six months will need to obtain a visit visa, and provide their fingerprints, before they travel. Nationals of these countries seeking to travel via the UK en route to another country will also need a transit visa. This is in addition to the existing requirement for a visa in order to live, work, study or marry in the UK.

All the new regimes will be implemented in line with the high standard of the UK's current visa operations.

INNOVATION, UNIVERSITIES AND SKILLS

Further Education Capital Programme

The Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills (Mr. John Denham): In 1997 there was no capital budget for Further Education Colleges and the National Audit Office described FE college buildings as "ageing and their quality and fitness for purpose was often unsatisfactory, affecting the reputation of the sector".

Between then and 2006-07, more than £2 billion has been invested in modernising FE facilities. My Department will spend another £2.3 billion in the current spending review period. We have been able to bring forward over £110 million of future investment in 2008-09 as part of the Government's response to boost the economy. Last summer the NAO reported the capital programme was making good progress with the renewal and modernisation of the FE estate with the great majority of projects coming in on budget and delivering improvements for learners.

In December, the Learning and Skills Council, which runs the programme, decided to defer further approvals of schemes while assessing the programme overall. The LSC's assessment, which I reported to the House on 4 March 2009, *Official Report*, column 56WS, was that there were many more schemes in preparation than can be funded in this spending round. Before this assessment had been completed, I had agreed with the LSC in January to appoint Sir Andrew Foster to conduct an independent review of the LSC's handling of its capital programme and to make recommendations for the future.

Sir Andrew's report is published today and copies have been placed in the Library of the House. I am also writing to all Members enclosing a copy of the report.

Sir Andrew's report is very clear and he has gone through the issues with great care. My Department and the LSC will accept all of his recommendations. I also wish to record my thanks for the speed and efficiency with which he has conducted his review. His key finding is that "a good policy has been compromised by the manner of its implementation". He goes on to explain that "the policy intent to transform the FE estate is clear and positive. But the implementation approach did not include a robust financial strategy or a regional or national approach to prioritisation".

Recognising the deficiencies in how the LSC has managed the programme, its former chief executive, Mark Haysom, resigned on Monday 23 March. Geoffrey Russell was appointed as acting chief executive on the same day. He said that his first task was to urgently increase the certainty and clarity around the capital funding programme.

He has immediately appointed an external team from the firm Grant Thornton to review the financial data held by the LSC about capital projects to ensure, as Sir Andrew recommends, that "the process is grounded in fully accurate and detailed information about capital schemes in the pipeline".

Mr Russell has appointed a director to be personally responsible for the capital programme, responding to Sir Andrew's conclusion that there was no clear overall responsibility for the capital programme within the LSC.

Sir Andrew recommends that the priority is "to agree how the present demand-led approach to the programme is replaced by a needs-based approach with explicit priorities and choice criteria". The LSC is now consulting the sector on the approach which should be used in prioritising schemes. Sir Andrew also recommends that it will be essential to have early and open engagement with the sector in finding ways forward on the most pressing matters. The LSC has therefore established a reference panel of college principals convened by the Association of Colleges.

Mr Russell is also appointing an external team of property specialists to assist the LSC as it begins shortly to meet with each college to ensure that the information held by the LSC is accurate and comprehensive and a sound basis for taking future decisions.

While that work is going on, we have already made clear to all college principals that we will not allow any college to get into a situation where it cannot meet its financial obligations as a result of decisions taken by the LSC on the capital programme. The LSC monitors financial risk in colleges and there are well-established procedures for dealing with any college judged to be at risk. Any college that is concerned should speak to its local LSC who will work with the college to agree an appropriate financial plan.

Finally, Sir Andrew's report also concludes that the scrutiny of the LSC capital programme by my Department was insufficiently rigorous. Many of my Department's objectives are achieved via arm's length bodies. It is vitally important that my Department is able to exercise proper scrutiny of their work. I have asked the permanent secretary to carry out a review of DIUS relationships with our non-departmental public bodies to ensure that there is clarity about accountability and responsibility.

I will make a further statement to the House after the recess and report on the progress made in ensuring that the record investment we have made in FE continues to develop the skills of the nation.

JUSTICE

Probation Trusts

The Minister of State, Ministry of Justice (Mr. David Hanson): I wish to inform the House that from 1 April 2009, there will be established two further probation trusts operating in England and Wales: Greater Manchester and Lancashire. This brings to eight the total number of probation trusts.

There remain 34 local probation boards that continue to operate in all other areas of England and Wales. These boards will, subject to satisfactory performance, have the opportunity to apply in 2009 to become probation trusts in April 2010. Voluntary mergers, initiated locally, will be supported by NOMS where they are more likely to meet the criteria for trust status.

In accordance with sections 7, 8, and 10 of the Offender Management Act my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Justice has published a strategic and business plan for the National Offender Management Service for 2009-10, his annual plan for 2009-10.

The trusts programme presents a challenge to probation boards to demonstrate that it can deliver locally tailored services efficiently and effectively. I am pleased that Lancashire and Greater Manchester have met this challenge and I am confident that more trusts will be created by 2010 and deliver significant benefits in reducing reoffending and protecting the public.

Written Ministerial Statements

Thursday 2 April 2009

BUSINESS, ENTERPRISE AND REGULATORY REFORM

Working Capital Scheme

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform (Ian Pearson): On 14 January 2009, I informed the House that the Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform intended to introduce a Working Capital scheme as part of the Government measures to enhance financial stability and support increased lending to business. Its implementation was subject to EU state aid clearance which was granted by the Commission on 24 March.

I am pleased to inform the House that on 31 March the Department signed a guarantee agreement with Royal Bank of Scotland PLC (RBS) and National Westminster Bank PLC (NatWest) to provide guarantees in respect of portfolios of loans that will enable RBS and NatWest to increase their lending to UK businesses.

The agreement with RBS and NatWest is the first of its kind under the Working Capital scheme. It represents an important step towards achieving the Government's aim of getting increased credit flowing to UK businesses during these difficult times.

RBS and NatWest have agreed that the capital released by their participation in the scheme will be redeployed in support of lending to credit-worthy SMEs and mid-corporates. This forms part of the £16 billion of additional lending to businesses they committed to on 26 February. This additional lending commitment took effect from 1 March.

Discussions are well advanced with two other banks in relation to their participation in the scheme.

The scheme runs until 31 March 2011.

Better Regulation

The Minister for Employment Relations and Postal Affairs (Mr. Pat McFadden): My noble Friend the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform has made the following statement.

The Government have a wide-ranging regulatory reform programme which we began in 2005. Today the Government are setting out next steps to ensure future better regulation.

Given the economic situation, it is important that Government focus on delivering real help for business now. Following the consultation launched last year, the Government have therefore decided not to implement a system of regulatory budgets at this stage. Rather we will undertake a programme of better regulation measures tailored to the present exceptional economic circumstances.

There is clearly a need for new regulation in some areas now—such as climate change, and financial services in response to the current banking crisis. Moreover, delaying measures which businesses have already planned for can be disruptive. But during the recession and recovery we have a particular reason to look very carefully at whether we should delay planned new regulation and avoid introducing new regulation which increases burdens on business except where there is a clear case for action now. For example, the Government have already delayed implementation of legislation on display of tobacco in small shops until 2013, to help this particular retail sector.

To provide greater rigour to this process of review during the present economic downturn and with a view to economic recovery my right hon. Friend the Prime Minister has decided to establish a new better regulation sub committee of the National Economic Council. The new Committee will take on the responsibilities of the panel for regulatory accountability. This Committee will scrutinise planned regulation and proposals for new regulation that will impact on business. The new Committee will take account of the views of business in coming to its conclusions.

The Government will also be working closely with EU partners to further embed the EU better regulation agenda and to ensure the current pressures on business are taken into account when new European regulation is being considered.

From this summer, the Government will also publish a forward regulatory programme. Business will be able to plan better as the programme will include existing and possible future regulatory proposals.

In 2005, we announced that we would cut the administrative burdens of regulation by 25 per cent by May 2010—i.e. £3.4 billion. We have already delivered £1.9 billion and are on track to deliver on our promise. Looking forward, the Government will adopt new simplification targets for 2010-15 which will address all regulatory costs on business.

The Government will also set up a new external Regulatory Policy Committee whose role will be to advise Government on whether they are doing all they can to accurately assess the costs and benefits of regulation. Building on the work of Philip Hampton, this body will also advise Government on whether regulators are appropriately risk based in their work; however, it will not have the power to require changes in the behaviour of independent regulators.

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Building Control Charging Regime

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (Mr. Iain Wright): I am today publishing a consultation document on proposed changes to the local authority (LA) building control charging regime in England and Wales.

The principle of empowering LAs to charge for carrying out their main building control functions related to building regulations has been Government policy since the late 1970s. It derives from the "user pays" principle and avoids putting further pressure on all those who pay council tax. The charge-setting process was devolved to individual LAs in 1999 through The Building (Local Authority Charges) Regulations 1998.

Following representations from stakeholders, we carried out a review of the charging regime and developed a number of proposals to address the perceived deficiencies and modernise the charging system. We consulted on the broad principles of the proposed approach as part of the consultation on the "Future of Building Control" last year and received support from the majority of respondents.

We are now seeking views on the detailed proposals which will build on the current devolved charge-setting process to LAs in order to:

Introduce more flexibility and discretion, remove some restrictions and ambiguities, and enable LAs to more accurately relate their charges to the actual costs of carrying out their main building control functions (that is, plan checking and inspections) for individual building projects as appropriate, thereby providing fairer charges.

Introduce more transparency into the building control charging regime, with a view to safeguarding income.

Further improve the competitive environment within which LAs and private sector approved inspectors (AIs) compete and the standards within which they operate.

The charging proposals also reflect the fundamental changes we propose to introduce to the building control system following the "Future of Building Control" consultation, in particular introducing a risk assessment approach to inspection of building work.

This consultation, which closes on 25 June 2009, is accompanied by an impact assessment. A copy has been placed in the Library of the House. It can also be accessed via the Communities and Local Government website at: http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/planningandbuilding/lachargingregimeconsult

ENERGY AND CLIMATE CHANGE

British Energy

The Minister of State, Department of Energy and Climate Change (Mr. Mike O'Brien): On 19 January, *Official Report*, column 19WS, I informed the House of the successful completion of the EDF takeover of British Energy. On 24 September last year, the then Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform, my right hon. Friend the Member for Barrow and Furness (Mr. Hutton), wrote to the Business and Enterprise Select Committee to inform members of EDF's takeover offer for British Energy. I would now like to update the House regarding the sites undertaking, which was referred to in that letter, copies of which were placed in the Libraries of both Houses.

The European Commission as part of its clearance of the acquisition of British Energy received certain undertakings from EDF that are slightly different from those agreed in the sites undertaking entered into between EDF and HM Government and these are as set out in the announcement of the Commission's decision on 22 December 2008. The sites undertaking has therefore been amended to reflect these developments.

The Commission asked EDF to offer further undertakings which have had the effect that the disposal of Dungeness or Heysham should happen unconditionally soon after EDF's takeover of British Energy has completed, rather than making the sale conditional on EDF getting planning permission to build two EPRs at each of Sizewell and Hinkley Point as was the case under the sites agreement negotiated with the Government.

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

Sri Lanka

The Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs (David Miliband): Together with my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for International Development, I would like to update the House on the current situation in Sri Lanka, our continuing concern and the action we have been taking.

The fate of civilians caught up in the fighting in the north of Sri Lanka between the Government of Sri Lanka and the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) is the most pressing concern. It is vital that they are able to move away from danger to safety.

The last remaining territory held by the LTTE continues to shrink. Currently it measures less than 20 square kilometres. Since January more than 60,000 internally displaced persons (EDPs) have left the conflict area and moved into Government-controlled territory. Over 10,000 have moved within the last week. But credible reports suggest that well over 100,000 remain trapped within the conflict zone. These civilians have been displaced numerous times over the past 18 months and are living under constant threat from the continued heavy fighting. Despite the lack of verifiable reporting from the conflict area there are credible reports of civilians being killed and wounded every day, including in the 'no fire zone'. We condemn the killings of civilians in the strongest possible terms and continue to urge all parties to take action to avoid further civilian casualties. Both the Government of Sri Lanka and the LTTE must abide by their obligations under international humanitarian law and ensure the protection of civilians at all times.

It was our concern for civilians that led my right hon. Friend the Prime Minister to call for a ceasefire on 14 January. I have since repeated that call on numerous occasions: in phone calls with both the Sri Lankan President and Foreign Minister; in public statements; and in concert with other countries.

We renew that call today for an urgent humanitarian ceasefire. We call on the LTTE to allow the remaining civilians to leave the conflict area and to desist from enforced recruitment of civilians. But the actions of the LTTE cannot excuse any failings by the Sri Lankan Government to meet the higher standards naturally expected of democratic Governments in a conflict.

We have also been active with partners in the EU, the UN and the Commonwealth. Following discussions at the General Affairs and External Relations Council on 23 February, EU foreign ministers publicly called for a ceasefire and made clear their concern for civilians trapped by the fighting. Sri Lanka continues to be discussed within the EU and we support a proposed EU high-level troika to Sri Lanka at the earliest opportunity.

At the UN we have been working for some time to ensure that the Security Council is fully briefed on the situation in Sri Lanka. We supported the visit by the Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs, John Holmes, to Sri Lanka in February and his subsequent briefings to the Security Council. We also welcome the continued engagement by the UN Secretary-General who has made clear his views on the deteriorating situation. This involvement by the UN means that the Government of Sri Lanka can be in no doubt about the concerns felt by the international community over the humanitarian situation.

At the recent meeting of the Commonwealth Ministerial Action Group, although Sri Lanka was not on the agenda, we nevertheless took the opportunity to raise our concerns over developments in Sri Lanka, particularly the humanitarian crisis.

In addition to calling for a ceasefire we continue to call for unhindered access for humanitarian agencies to the civilians displaced by the fighting, including those still trapped in the conflict area. There is an urgent need to increase the quantity and frequency of food and medical shipments to those affected by the fighting. Humanitarian agencies—specifically the UN High Commissioner for Refugees and the International Committee of the Red Cross—also need unhindered access to enable independent observation of the security screening of civilians and the running of the IDP camps. It is vital that these camps are temporary and that the IDPs are returned to their homes as early as is safely possible. We urge the Government of Sri Lanka to abide by its public commitment to return 80 per cent of IDPs by the end of the year.

The appointment by my right hon. Friend the Prime Minister, of my right hon. Friend the Member for Kilmarnock and Loudoun (Des Browne) as his Special Envoy to Sri Lanka was a measure of the UK's commitment to contribute to an improvement in the humanitarian situation and to the search for a sustainable political solution to the conflict. It should be seen as such. We have been disappointed that the Government of Sri Lanka continues to reject the appointment, despite earlier assurances from the President that his Government would engage with an envoy. We will continue to press the Sri Lankan Government to reconsider. In the meantime my right hon. Friend the Member for Kilmarnock and Loudoun will engage with representatives of other countries, UN agencies, non-governmental organisations, parliamentarians and community representatives with an interest in Sri Lanka.

As well as upping our diplomatic efforts we have also been taking practical steps to contribute to an improvement in the situation. Since September 2008 the Department for International Development (DFID) has committed £5 million of humanitarian assistance to Sri Lanka. Of this sum, more than £4 million has already been allocated in support of agencies providing protection and assistance work for IDPs. This includes £835,000 that DFID has transferred this week to the UN High Commissioner for Refugees and to the International Organisation for Migration. A sum of £915,000 pounds is being held in reserve so that we can continue to respond immediately to further needs as they arise.

We recognise that the LITE is a terrorist organisation and that the Government of Sri Lanka has a need to root out the threat from terrorism. But the over-riding need is for an immediate end to the tragic humanitarian crisis. We want to see an end to the conflict and a serious drive to achieve a sustainable political settlement that takes fully into account the legitimate concerns of all Sri Lanka's communities—Sinhalese, Tamils and Muslims. As part of this process the Government of Sri Lanka needs to tackle seriously the problem of human rights violations and the culture of impunity that underpins it. We urge the Government to ensure that all violations, including recent attacks on the media, are thoroughly investigated so that those responsible are brought to justice. The Government will continue to engage with political parties across all communities in Sri Lanka to support progress in all of these areas.

HOME DEPARTMENT

Justice and Home Affairs Council

The Minister for Borders and Immigration (Mr. Phil Woolas): The Justice and Home Affairs (JHA) Council will be held in Luxembourg on 6 April 2009. My noble Friend Lord Bach, the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Justice, the Scottish Minister for Community Safety (Fergus Ewing) and I will attend on behalf of the United Kingdom. The following issues will be discussed at the Council:

Justice Ministers will be asked to reach a general approach on the draft framework decision on the prevention and settlement of conflicts of jurisdiction. This instrument is intended to promote dialogue and closer co-operation between member states' competent authorities with a view to preventing double jeopardy situations.

The Commission will present a proposal to amend the 2003 Council framework decision on combating the sexual exploitation of children and child pornography. The revised proposal aims to tackle the challenges to the criminal law across Europe posed by the speed of change of internet related child abuse, and issues around the management of sex offenders who travel to commit offences. The UK supports work on combating the sexual exploitation of children including the distribution of images of child sexual abuse, and measures that further enable member states to tackle sex offenders who cross borders.

The Commission will present a proposal to amend a 2002 framework decision on combating human trafficking. The original framework decision introduced an obligation on member states to have in their national laws some common minimum offences and penalties for this conduct. The Commission's proposal will revise and update that framework decision and will need to be negotiated at working group level before it can be presented to the JHA Council for agreement. To be fully effective this instrument will need to achieve the right balance between prevention, enforcement and victim care.

The presidency will inform Justice Ministers about the conclusions of a conference that took place in Prague on 17 and 18 March on the standing of vulnerable victims in criminal proceedings.

The Council will revisit the discussion on the appointment of the new Europol director since an agreement was not reached at the last Council.

The presidency will seek political agreement on the directive for a single application procedure for third-country nationals. The proposed directive comprises two parts. The first would prescribe a single application procedure for a single permit for third-country nationals to reside and work in the territory of a member state. The second part would prescribe a common set of rights for third-country workers legally residing in a member state. The UK has not opted into the draft directive.

There will be a presentation to update the Council on the European security research and innovation forum by Mr Dragutin Mate, the chairman of ESRIF and former Interior Minister of Slovenia. ESRIF is currently completing a report that is intended to chart the EU's security research and innovation requirements over the next 10 to 20 years. The UK supports the objectives of ESRIF and the production of its final report.

During the Mixed Committee with Norway, Switzerland, Iceland and Lichtenstein, Ministers will be asked to report on progress in implementing the second generation of the Schengen information system (SIS II), in the light of the Council conclusions adopted at the last Council which identified the need to resolve problems in the central system. The UK remains of the view that we need a decision in June on the future of SIS II. The Council is also expected to adopt conclusions on the development of the SIRENE bureaux. These are not relevant to the UK since they concern arrangements for the operation of the current Schengen information system, to which the UK is not a party.

The presidency will present to the Mixed Committee the current state of play on the implementation of the regulation establishing the visa information system (VIS). The UK does not participate in that regulation.

Lastly, the presidency is expected to congratulate Switzerland on the successful completion of its air borders evaluation allowing it to lift checks on persons at its air borders on 29 March 2009.

Under AOB in the main Council session, there will be a presentation by the Commission on the state of negotiations relating to the EC re-admission agreement with Morocco. The UK welcomes progress made by the Commission but wants to see these efforts taken forward, especially in view of the time that the mandate has been opened. There will also be a report on the state of play in relation to ratification of the EU-US extradition and mutual legal assistance agreements. The Commission will provide Justice Ministers with an overview of the EU funds available to support e-justice. Finally, information will be provided on the visit between VP Commissioner Barrot and Czech Minister of Interior Langer to the US.

PRIME MINISTER

Interception of Communications Commissioner and the Intelligence Services Commissioner

The Prime Minister (Mr. Gordon Brown): In accordance with Section 57 of the Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act 2000, I have re-appointed the right hon. Sir Paul Kennedy as Interception of Communications Commissioner from 11 April 2009 to 10 April 2012.

In accordance with Section 59 of the same Act, I have also re-appointed the right hon. Sir Peter Gibson as Intelligence Services Commissioner from 1 April 2009 to 31 March 2012.

JUSTICE

United Kingdom Supreme Court

The Secretary of State for Justice and Lord Chancellor (Mr. Jack Straw): The renovation of Middlesex Guildhall has now been completed on time and within budget by Kier Group Plc. The building has been handed to the Ministry of Justice to carry out the final phase of works.

This is a major milestone in the development of a Supreme Court for the United Kingdom. We remain on track to deliver a fully functioning Supreme Court in time for the opening of the legal year in October 2009.

This renovation has breathed new life into a previously tired building, which sits in one of the most historic and recognisable public spaces in the world. The renovation works have been completed to the highest standard, as appropriate for its setting and required for a Grade II* listed building.

The Ministry of Justice will now take forward the final phase of works.

As announced in July 2008, work will soon begin to ensure the security provision at Middlesex Guildhall is in line with other high profile central government and court buildings.

I will ensure the House is kept updated on the progress of establishing the Supreme Court as work continues.

CABINET OFFICE

Member's and Peer's Correspondence

The Parliamentary Secretary, Cabinet Office (Mr. Tom Watson): I am today publishing a report on Departments' and Agencies' performance on handling Members' and Peers' correspondence during 2008. Details are set out in the table below. The 2007 correspondence statistics can be found on 20 March 2008, *Official Report*, column 71WS. Departmental figures are based on substantive replies unless otherwise indicated.

The footnotes to the table provide general background information on how the figures have been compiled.

Correspondence from MPs/Peers to Ministers and Agency Chief Executives in 2008

Correspondence from MPs/Peers to Ministers and Agency Chief Executives[i]		*2008*	
Department or Agency	*Target set for Reply (Working Days)*	*Number of Letters Received*	*% of Replies Within Target*
Attorney-General's Office	20	314	94
Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform[ii]	15	9,875	59
Companies House	10	60	100
Insolvency Service	10	430	91

Correspondence from MPs/Peers to Ministers and Agency Chief Executives in 2008

Correspondence from MPs/Peers to Ministers and Agency Chief Executives[i]		*2008*[ii]	
Department or Agency	*Target set for Reply (Working Days)*	*Number of Letters Received*	*% of Replies Within Target*
Cabinet Office	15	473	93
Department for Communities and Local Government[iii]	15	10,227	68
Planning Inspectorate	8	186	83
Crown Prosecution Service	15	484	98
Department for Children, Schools and Families	15	15,810	86
Department for Culture, Media and Sport[iv]	20	4,798	58
Royal Parks Agency	20	11	100
Ministry of Defence	15	5,345	81
Met Office	10	14	100
Service Personnel and Veterans Agency	15	919	98
Department for Energy and Climate Change[v]	15	2,215	39
Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs[vi]	15	14,526	68
Animal Health	15	60	93
Marine Fisheries Agency	15	23	91
Rural Payments Agency	15	396	73
Foreign and Commonwealth Office	20	10,334	87
Government Equalities Office[vii]	20	818	49
Department of Health	20	20,242	95
Medicines and Healthcare Products Regulatory Agency	20	113	75*
	20	19	88**
NHS Purchasing and Supplies Agency	20	36	94

**Agency Ministerial cases*

***Letters sent directly to Agency Chief Executive or where Agency Chief Executives responded on behalf of Ministers*

Food Standard Agency	20	590	76
DH Ministers replies	20	258	78[viii]*
	20	217	71**
FSA Chair/CE replies	20	70	95*
	20	12	33**
Meat Hygiene Service	20	33	97

**Response to non-campaign letters*

***Response to campaign letters*

Home Office	15	6,933	89
Criminal Records Bureau	10	666	96
Identity and Passport Service	10	1,247	84
UK Border Agency	20	51,905	78

Correspondence from MPs/Peers to Ministers and Agency Chief Executives in 2008

Correspondence from MPs/Peers to Ministers and Agency Chief Executives[1]		*2008*	
Department or Agency	*Target set for Reply (Working Days)*	*Number of Letters Received*	*% of Replies Within Target*
Department for Innovation, Universities and Science	15	5,223	74
UK Intellectual Property Office	10	19	100
Department for International Development**	15	3,100	67
Ministry of Justice	20	5,231	82
HM Courts Service	15	38	97
Land Registry	20	88	97
National Offender Management Service*	20	537	90
Office of the Public Guardian	15	246	89
Official Solicitor and Public Trustee	15	17	100
Tribunals Service	10	1,390	89
Northern Ireland Office	15	568	82
Compensation Agency	10	66	88
Northern Ireland Prison Service	10	78	83
Office for National Statistics	15	153	88*
	10	82	78**
**Letters signed by the National Statistician. Also includes 62 letters signed by HMT Ministers*			
***Letters sent direct by the National Statistician*			
Office of the Leader of the House of Commons	15	422	95
Office of the Leader of the House of Lords	15	11	90
HM Revenue and Customs	15	4,826	73
	15	1,252	76*
**Local Office and "delegated" figures (where local tax offices have replied directly to MPs)*			
Scotland Office	15	102	64
Department for Transport	15	8,393	77
Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency	7	1,692	99
Driving Standards Agency	10	227	62
Highways Agency	15	365	99
Vehicle and Operator Services Agency	15	56	98
HM Treasury	15	14,057	80
National Savings and Investments	15	17	88
Office of Government Commerce	15	12	83*
	15	24	92**
**Letters where Ministers have replied* ***Letters where Chief Executive has replied*			
Valuation Office	18	41	73
Treasury Solicitor's Department	10	25	88

Correspondence from MPs/Peers to Ministers and Agency Chief Executives in 2008

Correspondence from MPs/Peers to Ministers and Agency Chief Executives[1]		*2008*	
Department or Agency	*Target set for Reply (Working Days)*	*Number of Letters Received*	*% of Replies Within Target*
Wales Office	15	113	80
Department for Work and Pensions	20	15,360	84
Child Support Agency	15	7,313	100
Debt Management Service	15	56	100
Disability and Carers Service	15	598	100
Health and Safety Executive	15	149	98
Jobcentre Plus	15	2,229	83
The Pension Service	15	1,477	98

[1] Departments and Agencies which received 10 MPs/Peers letters or fewer are not shown in this table. Holding or interim replies are not included unless otherwise indicated. The report does not include correspondence considered as Freedom of Information requests.

[2] Implementation of new correspondence handling system led to delays in first half of the year. Issues have been resolved and led to significant improvement in performance in second half of the year.

[3] Communities and Local Government's performance improved in 2008 and it continues to take measures to improve further.

[4] During 2008, DCMS underwent a Department-wide transformation programme, including significant changes to the central correspondence unit. This resulted in a drop in performance and efforts are being made to resolve outstanding issues as quickly as possible.

[5] DEFRA/BERR currently handle DECC correspondence. The setting up of new Department led to delays in responding to correspondence. Measures being put in place to improve correspondence performance as a matter of high priority.

[6] Creation of DECC led to a significant increase in correspondence which was initially handled by DEFRA. Prior to this 75 per cent. of correspondence was responded to within target.

[7] GEO, a new Department, began handling its own Ministerial correspondence in May 2008. It is making changes to improve performance of internal handling of correspondence. New internal guidance has been implemented as well as staff training.

[8] The FSA and DH are working together to minimise delays in the processing of correspondence.

[9] DfID is introducing changes to their correspondence handling system and will be introducing a new correspondence database in June to improve performance. The correspondence unit has been restructured and reinforced with additional staff and targets have been steadily improving since July 2008.

[10] Includes HM Prison Service

TRANSPORT

EU Transport Council

The Secretary of State for Transport (Mr. Geoffrey Hoon): I attended the first Transport Council of the Czech presidency, in Brussels on 30 March.

There was a progress report and policy debate on the proposed amendment to Directive 1999/62/EC on the charging of heavy goods vehicles for the use of certain infrastructures—the "Eurovignette Directive". Presenting its latest compromise text, the presidency explained that the draft amending Directive would give member states flexibility to add an element for external costs (e.g. environmental or congestion) to any distance-based charges they levied on lorries. I supported the inclusion of congestion charging from the outset, and restated the UK's opposition to earmarking of revenues.

The Council reached a general approach on an amendment to the Directive on the organisation of working time in road transport. The presidency outlined its compromise text, which would allow member states to exclude self-employed road transport workers from the scope of the Directive, if they wished. The text of the general approach was acceptable to the United Kingdom.

The Council adopted conclusions on the Intelligent Transport Systems (ITS) action plan, which aims to promote the increase of ITS deployment across the EU, to support cleaner, safer and more efficient road transport. The conclusions were acceptable to the UK.

The Council adopted a decision endorsing the master plan for air traffic management in Europe (a part of the SESAR project for Single Sky implementation) and a Council resolution on the master plan. Both were acceptable to the UK.

The presidency and Commission reported on the good progress made on the legislative proposals comprising the Single European Sky package. These are: a regulation amending the four regulations adopted in 2004 which established the Single European Sky; and an amending regulation extending the responsibilities of the European Aviation Safety Agency (EASA) to the safety of aerodromes, air traffic management and air navigation services. I look forward to the formal adoption of these proposals, which are an important step towards completion of the SES.

The Council endorsed the recently agreed comprehensive air transport agreement with Canada. I look forward to the signature of this important agreement in the near future.

In maritime transport, there was a progress report and policy debate on a draft regulation on the rights of passengers when travelling by sea and inland waterway. The presidency outlined the aims of the draft regulation, which are to provide new rights for passengers with reduced mobility and to improve general passenger rights. I noted the progress made on this proposal and stressed that the final outcome of the negotiations should reflect an appropriate balance between the interests of passengers and those of the vessel operators.

Also in maritime transport, the Council adopted conclusions arising from two recent Commission communications, "Strategic Goals and Recommendations for the EU's maritime transport policy until 2018", and an action plan with a view to establishing "a European maritime space without barriers". Both sets of conclusions were acceptable to the UK.

The presidency reported on the draft regulation establishing the second "Marco Polo" programme. This should allow the Marco Polo programme to fully deploy its potential, and we strongly support it.

Under AOB, the Commission reported on the Galileo satellite navigation programme. It announced its plans to make two new legislative proposals, one revising the regulation which established the Galileo supervisory authority, and the other on policy for access to the Public Regulated Service (PRS) for Government-authorised users.

Also under AOB, the Commission presented its proposal to amend the airport slots regulation so as to suspend temporarily the 'use it or lose it' rule for airport slots, with the aim of helping airlines in the economic downturn. This would enable the EU industry to adjust supply to falling demand. I agreed that this was a sensible short term proposal, but stressed that it should be restricted to the summer season, and an extension should be considered only with an accompanying impact assessment looking at consumer/competition implications. I also pressed for a wider review of the slot allocation regulations to be undertaken by the Commission in 2010, to include an examination of how environmental considerations could be taken into account more fully. The Commission agreed to the UK request and underlined the temporary nature of the proposed suspension to those member states with concerns.

Over lunch, there was a discussion of the effects of the economic situation on the transport sector and measures to help mitigate the impact. I pointed to the real economic benefits secured from liberalisation of the transport sector, which are consistent with single market developments, and I emphasised that reduction of carbon emissions has to continue to be taken into account.

East Anglia Rail Service

The Secretary of State for Transport (Mr. Geoffrey Hoon): In July 2007, the Government published they White Paper "Delivering a Sustainable Railway". Within this the Government set out they High Level Output Specification (HLOS) for the railways, detailing the outputs they wanted the industry to achieve by the end of the five year period from the 1 April 2009 to 31 March 2014 – known as Control Period 4 or CP4. These outputs covered the areas of capacity, reliability and safety.

In terms of capacity, targets for the accommodation of extra demand were produced for each of the main London termini and major cities. The White Paper indicated that a total of 1,300 additional carriages were expected to be required to meet these requirements. So far 423 of these additional carriages have been ordered, even before the start of CP4.

I am pleased to announce to the House that today that my Department has signed a deed of amendment to its franchise agreement with London Eastern Railway Ltd, which trades as National Express East Anglia (NXEA) and is part of National Express Group plc.

This contractual variation will enable NXEA to add 188 carriages to its existing fleet, boosting capacity into London Liverpool Street by providing approximately 11,000 extra seats during the morning three hour peak period by December 2011.

NXEA will lease 120 new Electric Multiple Unit (EMU) carriages, that will be built by Bombardier Transportation UK Ltd in Derby. These trains which have a capital cost of £ 160 million will be owned by Lloyds TSB General Leasing (No.8) Limited, a subsidiary of Lloyds TSB Bank plc. This is the first time this bank has provided finance for trains. The trains will principally be used on the Stansted Express route, enabling a cascade of rolling stock within the franchise to lengthen other services.

NXEA will also lease 68 Class 321 EMU carriages which are currently in use on the London Midland franchise where they are due to be replaced in July 2009. These carriages will receive an internal refresh.

NXEA will increase car parking space at four stations (Broxbourne, Audley End, Harlow Town and Diss), install two carriage washers and increase its workforce to implement the scheme.

Network Rail will be undertaking infrastructure enhancements to facilitate the changes to NXEA's operations, including platform lengthening, power supply upgrades and two passing loops.

This is one of the largest contract changes negotiated with a Train Operating Company (TOC) during its franchise term since privatisation of the railways in 1997. I hope to make further such announcements over the next 12 months, although this requires TOCs to co-operate in providing my Department with affordable and value for money proposals which meet the capacity requirements for their franchise areas.

CABINET OFFICE

Equality Bill

The Leader of the House of Commons (Ms Harriet Harman): In Great Britain, we already provide protection against direct discrimination and harassment that arises because the victim is wrongly perceived to belong or subscribe to a particular race, religion or belief, or to have a particular sexual orientation. Direct discrimination and harassment arising from association with a person of a particular race, religion or belief or with a particular sexuality are also prohibited.

The Government's response to the consultation on reform of discrimination law[1], published on 21 July 2008, set out how we proposed to deal with direct discrimination and harassment based on perception and association in the Equality Bill. But we also made it clear that we would need to consider carefully the terms of the judgment of the European Court of Justice in the *Coleman case*[2], published on 17 July 2008, before determining the final approach for the Equality Bill.

I am today announcing that we have decided to extend the prohibition against associative and perceptive direct discrimination and harassment to other strands and areas where this does not currently apply. The Equality Bill will therefore prohibit direct discrimination and harassment based on association and perception in respect of race, sex, gender reassignment, disability, sexual orientation, religion or belief and age and in relation to both employment and areas beyond this, such as goods, facilities and services.

This extension will implement the *Coleman* judgment in Great Britain and the extension to other protected characteristics is in keeping with the aims of the Equality Bill to simplify and strengthen the law.

[1] Cm 7454

[2] *Coleman v Attridge Law and another* (Case C-303/06)

Petitions

Monday 23 March 2009

OBSERVATIONS

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Fire and Rescue Services (York)

The Petition of Kevin Booth, Editor of "The Press" York and the people of York.

Declares that the Petitioners note with concern the proposed increase in Government funding for the North Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Service of only 0.5 per cent. in 2009-10 and again in 2010-11.

The Petitioners therefore request that the House of Commons urges the Government to provide a fairer grant settlement to ensure firefighters can continue to respond to fires and other emergencies, and also deliver a comprehensive fire prevention service across York and North Yorkshire

And the Petitioners remain, etc.—*[Presented by Hugh Bayley, Official Report*, 15 December 2008; Vol. 485, c. 934.]

[P000297]

Observations from the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government:

The Secretary of State acknowledges the concerns of the petitioners regarding the funding increase of 0.5 per cent. in 2009-10 and 2010-11.

The distribution of formula grant takes into account the relative needs and relative resources of each authority relative to all other authorities providing the same services. Relative needs reflect socio-economic and demographic characteristics, and relative resources reflect the potential to raise income through council tax. There is also a central allocation and a floor damping mechanism. The floor damping mechanism ensures that authorities receive at least the minimum percentage change from year-to-year on a like-for-like basis.

In setting floor levels over this period, we have had to strike a balance between providing an increase for all authorities and allowing changes from the underlying distribution to come through. The cost of the floor is paid for by scaling back grant increases above the floor.

This minimum ("floor") was set at 1%, 0.5% and 0.5% for Fire and Rescue Authorities over the 2008-09, 2009-10 and 2010-11 settlement period. Due to this floor damping mechanism, North Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Authorities have been given £1.7 million, £1.5 million and £1.3 million more, in each respective year, than they would have received had there been no grant floor.

During the course of the Comprehensive Spending Review the Government considered all the pressures on the Fire and Rescue Service along with the amount of efficiencies that authorities could continue to make. This is a sustainable settlement for the Service that allows authorities to move forward with modernisation.

Formula Grant is provided to North Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Authority as an unhypothecated block grant to support revenue expenditure. This means that it is for the Authority to decide how they allocate this grant to the services that they provide.

Planning and Development (Northamptonshire)

The Humble Petition of residents of Redhill Grange in the Wellingborough constituency and the surrounding area.

Sheweth

That major concern is expressed about the overdevelopment of Wellingborough and in particular, the development north of Wellingborough towards the constituency of Kettering, and concern over the lack of sufficient green space around existing rural developments and villages.

Wherefore your Petitioners pray that your Honourable House urges the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government to liaise with the Borough Council of Wellingborough and Northamptonshire County Council to find a solution to the overdevelopment.

And your Petitioners, as in duty bound, will ever pray, &c.—*[Presented by Mr. Peter Bone, Official Report*, 10 December 2008; Vol. 485, c. 648.]

[P000295]

Observations from the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government:

The Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government is aware that a planning application was submitted to the Borough Council of Wellingborough for a major urban extension to the north of Wellingborough.

Decisions on planning applications are required to be in accordance with the adopted development plan, unless material considerations indicate otherwise. The Government's statements of national planning policy, such as Planning Policy Guidance 3 "Housing", are material considerations which must be taken into account, where relevant, in planning decisions, but it is the responsibility of the local planning authority to identify and weigh up all the different issues, in the context of the specific local circumstances, having regard to the views of local residents and other interested parties.

The Secretary of State is advised that while this application was refused by the Council's Planning Committee on 4 February 2009, the applicant has also lodged an appeal with The Planning Inspectorate in relation to the Council's non-determination of an identical planning application. A public inquiry into this is likely to take place in June.

As the appeal application is now within her jurisdiction, it would [illegible]appropriate for the Secretary of State to comme[illegible]he specific matter raised in the petition.

Petition

Wednesday 25 March 2009

OBSERVATIONS

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

National Parks (New Forest)

The Petition of Mr Desmond Swayne MP and other residents and users of the New Forest,

Declares that the proposals set out in the New Forest National Park Authority's National Park Management Plan and Local Development Framework Core Strategy and Development Policies August 2008 (specifically Chapter 9, Policy DC 12 Recreational Horse keeping, DC 13 Field Shelters, and DC 14 Stables and Maneges), are poorly thought out, draconian in intent, and will have far reaching repercussions on the quality of life, livelihood and freedom of many occupants of the New Forest and surrounding areas; and further declares that said proposals will have a serious impact on the traditional make-up of the National Park and its neighbouring communities.

The Petitioners therefore request that the House of Commons urges the Government to withdraw these unsuitable proposed arrangements for the management of the New Forest.

And the Petitioners remain, etc.—*[Presented by Dr. Julian Lewis, Official Report*, 10 February 2009; Vol. 487, c. 1344.]

[P000318]

Observations from the Secretary of State for Environment Food and Rural Affairs:

Thank you for your petition of 10 February 2009 about the New Forest National Park Authority's Park Plan and Local Development Framework Core Strategy Document.

The Authority is currently reviewing the draft New Forest National Park Plan in the light of responses received, including the petition. Part of this process involves working groups with a representative cross section of interests, one of which will be considering the recreational horse keeping and related policies.

Once approved by the Authority, the core strategy component of the plan will be subject to a further minimum six week statutory consultation followed some months later by an independent public examination.

Petition

Friday 27 March 2009

OBSERVATIONS

HOME DEPARTMENT

Police Stations (Essex)

The Petition of residents of Hadleigh, Thundersley and Benfleet,

Declares that we are concerned about the move of the Coroners Office from the old Hadleigh Police Station, are deeply worried that Councillors may be considering selling this building off for yet more development which our community cannot absorb, believes there is a need for a Police Station, with public access, in Hadleigh, and that the station is a community asset and residents should be consulted before any decisions are taken on its future and that Councillors should support this petition on behalf of residents.

The Petitioners therefore request that the House of Commons urges the Secretary of State for the Home Department to encourage Essex County Councillors and the Police Authority to return Hadleigh Police Station to police use,

And the Petitioners remain, etc.—*[Presented by Bob Spink, Official Report,*11 February 2009; Vol. 487, c. 20P .]

[P000317]

Observations from the Secretary of State for the Home Department:

The Government are aware of the public's concern about access to police services in their communities. This is why before station closures or reduced services are contemplated, surveys and or public consultations are conducted by the police authority concerned, to determine the demand for access to police station front counters.

Many forces have now devised innovative ways of increasing their accessibility to members of the public by using other more modern methods of interaction, such as police shops in high streets, police kiosk and by use of mobile police stations—particularly in rural areas.

The management of the police estate and the allocation of resources are matters for the police authority and chief constable of the force concerned, who are responsible for assessing local needs.

Petition

Monday 30 March 2009

OBSERVATIONS

WORK AND PENSIONS

State Pension

The Petition of the Retired Members Committee of the South East Region branch of Unison, pensioners, and others,

Declares that the 2008 basic state pension was set at £90.70 per week, while the official poverty level was set at £134 per week; further declares that if the state pension link to average earnings had not been broken by Margaret Thatcher's Government, the state pension would stand at £139 per week; notes that pensioners receive only a 25 pence per week increase in their pension when they reach the age of eighty; further notes that the National Insurance Fund has a surplus of £38.5billion; believes that these statistics speak for themselves.

The Petitioners therefore request that the House of Commons urges the Government to raise the state pension immediately to £139 and to restore the link to average earnings for future increases.

And the Petitioners remain, etc.—*[Presented by Kelvin Hopkins, Official Report,* 2 March 2009; Vol. 488, c. 700 .]

[P000321]

Observations from the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions:

Our strategy, since 1997, has been to target help on the poorest pensioners while providing a solid foundation of support for all. This Government will be spending around £90 billion on pensioners in 2008-09. This is over £13 billion more than if the system we inherited in 1997 had continued, and around half of this additional spending is going to the poorest third of pensioners. Through this approach we have lifted 900,000 pensioners out of relative low income since 1998-99 (measured as below 60 per cent of contemporary median income after housing costs.)

The basic State Pension provides a strong foundation towards retirement income, but no pensioner needs to live on the basic State Pension alone. Pension Credit is available to help those pensioners with lower incomes. Pension Credit ensures that no-one aged 60 or over needs to live on less than £124.05 a week or £189.35 a week for couples. From April 2009, this will increase to £130.00 a week or £198.45 a week for couples. Those who are receiving Pension Credit are also eligible for help with rent and Council Tax costs.

From April 2009, the basic State Pension will be increased by five per cent: in line with the highest increase in inflation last year. At a time of falling inflation, this is the largest increase in basic State Pension since 2001.

Increasing the basic State Pension to £139 a week would incur an additional cost of around £25 billion each year in the early years. That would be the equivalent of an extra 5 pence on income tax. Increasing basic State Pension in this way would not effectively target resources on the poorest pensioners; whereas wealthier pensioners would gain considerably. We estimate that richer pensioners with a full basic State Pension would gain around £50 a week of basic State Pension if it rose to £139 a week, compared to a maximum gain of around £15 a week for the poorest pensioners receiving the Pension Credit standard minimum guarantee only.

In the Pensions Act 2007 we made a commitment to re-link the uprating of the basic State Pension to average earnings, during the next Parliament. Our objective, subject to affordability and the fiscal position, is to do this in 2012, but in any event by the end of the next Parliament at the latest. We will make a statement on the precise date at the beginning of the next Parliament. The restoration of the earnings link is part of an integrated package of reforms, which are designed to meet the needs of those in retirement and future generations.

An introduction in 2012 provides a firm underpin for the introduction of personal accounts in the same year. Earnings uprating of the basic State Pension must also go hand in hand with rises in State Pension age and the full package of pension reforms. This will prevent an unaffordable increase in State Pension expenditure.

In addition to basic State Pension and Pension Credit we have made a number of other important improvements in provision for retired people since 1997. These include: free eye tests and prescriptions, free off-peak bus travel, now available country-wide, and the free television licence scheme for those aged 75 and over. The Winter Fuel Payment provides a significant contribution towards winter fuel bills. For 2008-09, we paid an extra £50 to qualifying households with someone aged 60 to 79, and an additional £100 to those with someone aged 80 or over. This makes combined payments of up to £250 and £400 respectively for winter 2008-09. We also paid a one-off boost to the Christmas Bonus for winter 2008-09: making it £70 in total instead of the usual £10.

Petition

Wednesday 1 April 2009

OBSERVATIONS

TRANSPORT

Traffic Management (Somerset)

The Petition of concerned motorists, and others,

Declares that the traffic lights at the junction of the A39 and off to the Dunster Steep change far too quickly; and further declares that there should be a camera operating at this junction, to help manage the lights.

The Petitioners therefore request that the House of Commons urges the Secretary of State for Transport to take action to improve the management of the traffic lights at this junction.

And the Petitioners remain, etc.—*[Presented by Mr. Ian Liddell-Grainger, Official Report,* 11 March 2009; Vol. 489, c. 404 .]

[P000332]

Observations from the Secretary of State for Transport:

The Secretary of State has responsibility for the trunk road network and motorway in England. The A39 is a local road for which Somerset County Council (SCC) has responsibility. The provision of traffic management measures and operation of traffic signals on these roads is for them to consider.

I understand that SCC are investigating the operation of the traffic signals at the junction of the A39 and Dunster Steep, with the view to resolving any operational and timing issues.

The traffic lights on the A39 are on a high speed road, that is where the 85th percentile approach speeds at a junction are 35mph (56 km/h) or above. The advice issued (in the form of Traffic Advisory Leaflets) by the Department to local authorities gives guidance on signal-control at junctions on high-speed roads (TAL 2/03) and on the general principle of traffic signal control by light signals (TAL 12/06).

Petitions

Thursday 2 April 2009

OBSERVATIONS

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

National Parks (South Downs)

The Humble Petition of members and supporters of the South Downs Campaign,

Sheweth that the area of land known as the Western Weald, including the towns of Petersfield, Liss, Midhurst and Petworth and the surrounding villages, has been designated by the Countryside Agency (now Natural England) as being worthy of inclusion on the South Downs National Park, on the grounds of their great natural beauty, cultural and historical richness and close links with the chalk downs; further sheweth that the people living in that area and those who admire and love it are strongly desirous of it being so included.

Wherefore your Petitioners pray that your Honourable House urges the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs to confirm that the South Downs National Park shall include all of the said area and all such areas as have subsequently been considered worthy of inclusion.

And your Petitioners, as in duty bound, will ever pray, &c.—*[Presented by Mr. Michael Mates, Official Report,* 17 March 2009; Vol. 489, c. 881.]

[P000335]

Observations from the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs:

Thank you for your Petition of 17 March on the subject of including the Western Weald in the proposed South Downs National Park.

My parliamentary written statement of 31 March announced that my intention is to confirm the designation order for the South Downs National Park, and, as you will have seen from my decision letter released on the same day, I intend to include the Western Weald.

HEALTH

Care Home Residents (Allowances)

The Petition of care home residents, their relatives, and others,

Declares that the over a quarter of a million of the poorest older people living in care homes are entitled to a dignified level of income; further declares that under national means-testing rules for local authorities, these people part with any income to pay towards their care home fees; notes that for older residents this means any pensions they get, and normally all they are left with is a Personal Expenses Allowances of £21.15 a week; further notes that the Personal Expenses Allowance is expected to cover the cost of all personal items not covered by the care package agreed by the local authority, including clothes and toiletries.

The Petitioners therefore request that the House of Commons calls upon Her Majesty's Government to recognise the representations of Age Concern and others and increase the Personal Expenses Allowance for people living in residential care who receive state support to at least £40 per week.

And the Petitioners remain, etc.—*[Presented by Mr. Paul Burstow, Official Report,* 11 March 2009; Vol. 489, c. 402.]

[P000327]

Observations from the Secretary of State for Health:

The Government's priority is to transform the adult social care system to ensure people have greater independence, choice and control over their lives and are protected from abuse and neglect.

We have announced an extra £520 million of ring-fenced funding to transform Social Care over the next three years through the introduction of Personal Care budgets.

The Personal Expenses Allowance is increased annually in line with the average increase in earnings and has retained its value over the 60 years since it was introduced in 1948.

Raising the weekly Personal Expenses Allowance to £40 would cost £250 million per year. This significant extra expenditure would not increase the choice or quality of care homes or support the transformation of adult social care provision which must be our priority for the future.

The forthcoming Green Paper on the future of care and support will consider how care should be funded in the future.

Written Answers to Questions

Monday 23 March 2009

SCOTLAND

Armed Forces: Recruitment

Mr. Hollobone: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what recent discussions he has had with the Secretary of State for Defence on levels of recruitment from Scotland to *(a)* the Royal Air Force, *(b)* the Royal Navy, *(c)* the Army and *(d)* the Royal Marines. [265723]

Ann McKechin: The Secretary of State and I are in regular contact with Defence Ministers on a range of issues. Recruitment to the armed forces is a matter for Defence Ministers.

Departmental Bank Services

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland with which banks his Department has or has had contracts for the provision of financial advice, for the financial year 2008-09. [262751]

Ann McKechin: For the financial year 2008-09, the Scotland Office have held contracts with banks for the provision of banking operational services only, and not for the provision of financial advice.

Departmental Training

Mr. Hands: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland pursuant to the answer of 28 January 2009, *Official Report*, column 501W, on departmental training, which Ministers attended the *(a)* presentation and public speaking skills course and *(b)* introduction workshop for new Ministers; and how much those courses cost. [265667]

Ann McKechin: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave him on 19 March 2009, *Official Report*, column 1287W.

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Sudan: Overseas Aid

Mr. Moore: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what assessment his Department has made of the effect of the Sudanese government's decision to expel the staff of a number of international aid agencies from Darfur on the humanitarian situation in the region; what representations his Department has made to the Sudanese government following these expulsions; and if he will make a statement. [263516]

Gillian Merron: I have been asked to reply.

The expulsion of 13 major international (and three national) non-governmental organisations will have a devastating impact on levels of humanitarian assistance in Sudan. UN officials have told the UN Security Council this will disrupt up to 50 per cent. of the current humanitarian effort in Darfur. Consequences will be most severe in Darfur, but will also affect humanitarian, recovery and development assistance throughout north Sudan, particularly in conflict-affected regions of the transitional areas and the east.

Our ambassador has urged government of Sudan to reverse its decision. The EU issued a statement on 10 March 2009 calling upon government of Sudan to urgently reconsider their decision, and ensure that humanitarian assistance to the most vulnerable people in Sudan be continuously guaranteed.

Mr. Vara: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what recent assessment he has made of the humanitarian situation in Darfur. [263543]

Gillian Merron: I have been asked to reply.

The expulsion of 13 major international (and three national) non-governmental organisations (NGOs) will have a devastating impact on levels of humanitarian assistance in Sudan. UN officials have told the UN Security Council this will disrupt up to 50 per cent. of the current humanitarian effort in Darfur. Consequences will be most severe in Darfur, but will also affect humanitarian and recovery and development assistance throughout north Sudan particularly in conflict-affected regions of the transitional areas and the east. As well as increased risk of disease, malnutrition and deaths, lack of water, food and shelter could increase insecurity, particularly in large, volatile camps like Kalma (90,000 internally displaced persons (IDPs) and Gereida (130,000) in south Darfur. Civil disturbances and mass movement of IDPs seeking help could quickly take the situation out of control.

The UK is the second biggest bilateral humanitarian donor after the US, and we have requested that the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs brief the UN Security Council on the current situation on the ground. Together with the UN and NGOs we are keeping the situation under close review and are urgently exploring all options to fill the gap left by this action. Initial reports estimate that this could take months if Sudan does not reverse its decision in the near future.

Mr. Vara: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what steps he is taking to ensure that aid reaches those who need it in Darfur; and if he will make a statement. [263548]

Gillian Merron: I have been asked to reply.

The UK is the second biggest bilateral humanitarian donor after the US, and we have requested that the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs brief the UN Security Council on the current situation on the ground. Together with the UN and non-governmental organisations we are keeping the situation under close review and are urgently exploring all options to fill the gap left by this action. Initial reports estimate that this could take months if Sudan does not reverse its decision in the near future.

My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary made a statement on 4 March 2009 in which he strongly urged all parties in Sudan to avoid escalation, maintain order and protect embassies, international personnel and humanitarian workers, and above all the Sudanese civilians who have already suffered so much.

The statement is available for viewing at:

http://www.fco.gov.uk/en/newsroom/latest-news/?view=PressS&id=14479209

HOUSE OF COMMONS COMMISSION

Clerk of the House

Mr. Amess: To ask the hon. Member for North Devon, representing the House of Commons Commission how many staff of each grade *(a)* were employed in the Office of the Clerk of the House before the Tebbit Review of Management and Services of the House was implemented and *(b)* are employed in the Office of the Chief Executive; and if he will make a statement. [264616]

Nick Harvey: The Tebbit Review recommended that the scope of the activities of the Office of the Clerk of the House should be expanded to embrace planning and performance management functions, and an increased communication co-ordination role; that its staffing numbers should be increased; and that it be renamed the Office of the Chief Executive to reflect its larger role.

In December 2007, immediately before the departmental restructuring which followed the Tebbit Review, there were 12 staff (11.6 full-time equivalent) in the Office of the Clerk of the House. There are currently 21 staff (20.2 full-time equivalent) in the Office of the Chief Executive. A breakdown by band is given in the following tables. Most of the increase in staff is accounted for by the transfer to the OCE of functions from other Departments (principally internal audit, risk management and internal communications), so there has not been a corresponding increase in the total number of staff in the House Service.

Office of the Clerk

Band	*Number of staff (full-time equivalent)*
SCSI	1
A1	1
A2	4.6
B2	3
C	1
D2	1
Total	11.6

Office of the Chief Executive

Band	*Number of staff (full-time equivalent)*
SCS1A	1
SCSI	1
A1	1
A2	7.2
B1	3
B2	5
C	2
Total	20.2

Management and Services of the House of Commons Review

Mr. Amess: To ask the hon. Member for North Devon, representing the House of Commons Commission what recent representations the Commission has received on the implementation of the Tebbit Review of Management and Services of the House; and if he will make a statement. [264615]

Nick Harvey: The House of Commons Commission has received no recent representations about the implementation of the Tebbit Review. It has received six-monthly progress reports from the Management Board on actions agreed in response to the review; the most recent was in December.

Mr. Amess: To ask the hon. Member for North Devon, representing the House of Commons Commission what estimate the Commission has made of the effects on expenditure on House administration of implementation of the recommendations of the Tebbit Review of Management and Services of the House; and if he will make a statement. [264617]

Nick Harvey: It is intended that the implementation of the recommendations of the Tebbit Preview will lead over time to better management of the House Service and to greater efficiency in the delivery of the House administration. The costs of implementing the Tebbit recommendations have been met out of existing budgets, by efficiency savings in existing areas of work.

Postal Services

Kate Hoey: To ask the hon. Member for North Devon, representing the House of Commons Commission when the mail screening contract for Parliament will next be re-tendered. [265447]

Nick Harvey: The current mail screening contract runs until September 2010. Work to retender the contract will commence in the autumn of 2009.

TRANSPORT

Bus Services: Concessions

Mr. Steen: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what funding his Department provided in *(a)* 2002-03 and *(b)* 2007-08 for the concessionary bus fares scheme in the Torbay Unitary Authority area; what the growth in passenger numbers during this period was; what proportion of the cost of the scheme in Torbay Unitary Authority area has been met by (i) the Exchequer and (ii) the local unitary authority since 2002; and what percentage of the population in (A) Torbay Unitary Authority area and (B) England is aged over 60 years and entitled to a concessionary bus fare. [264257]

Paul Clark: Before 1 April 2008, funding for the statutory minimum bus concession was provided exclusively through the Formula Grant system, which is administered by the Department for Communities and Local Government (CLG). The Department for Transport therefore provided no separate funding to Torbay Unitary Authority for concessionary bus travel in 2002-03 or 2007-08.

The Department did however provide Torbay unitary authority with £120,832 in 2007-08 for the cost of producing and issuing the new England-wide bus passes to all those eligible.

In 2008-09 Torbay unitary authority received additional special grant funding from the Department for Transport of £980,000; an increase of 38 per cent. on the authority's spend on concessionary travel in 2007-08. The total number of bus journeys rose by 14 per cent. in England between 2002-03 and 2007-08. In 2007-08, 968 million concessionary trips were made in England. We do not hold data on the number of concessionary trips made in prior years.

In Torbay, 30 per cent. of the population is over-60, compared to 22 per cent. in the rest of England.

Driving: Insurance

Mark Hunter: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what information his Department collects on the insurance status of drivers involved in road traffic accidents in each police authority area; and if he will make a statement. [265091]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The Department of Transport does not collect any information on the insurance status of drivers involved in reported personal injury road accidents.

Driving: Multiple Sclerosis

Mr. Gray: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many drivers diagnosed with multiple sclerosis hold long-term driving licences. [264196]

Jim Fitzpatrick: Accurate statistics on the total number of long-term licences held by drivers with multiple sclerosis are not available and the Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency (DVLA) only holds data on those drivers with multiple sclerosis who have notified the agency of their medical condition. Between 2004 and 2007 DVLA issued approximately 8,000 driving licences to Group 1 (car and motorcycle) drivers with multiple sclerosis and these included long-term licences.

The current licensing system places a legal obligation on the applicant/licence holder to notify, at any time, the Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency (DVLA) of the onset or worsening of any medical condition which may affect their fitness to drive.

Mr. Gray: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many driving licences which would have expired on the holder's 70th birthday have been revoked consequent on changes in application of the provisions of the Road Traffic Act 1988 to drivers with multiple sclerosis. [265094]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The statistical information required is not available.

Licences are revoked or restricted for a number of reasons which may or may not relate solely to the driver's condition of multiple sclerosis. In some cases other prescribed or prospective disabilities may also be relevant to the decision. In cases where multiple sclerosis is the sole factor, changes to the validity or duration of a licence are dependent on information received from the driver and, on investigation, from medical opinion of the rate and level of progression of the driver's condition and any consequent impairment relevant to driving.

In order to obtain the required material information, each case that has been assessed by the Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency would need to be reviewed individually, to establish whether the strengthening of the operational framework in 2006 influenced the decision on the licensing.

Mr. Gray: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what changes have been made in the application of the provisions of the Road Traffic Act 1988 in respect of the renewal of the driving licences of drivers with multiple sclerosis; and when each change was implemented. [265095]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The provisions of the Road Traffic Act 1988 require multiple sclerosis to be considered as a prospective disability. Drivers who notify the Driving and Vehicle Licensing Agency (DVLA) of the condition are assessed against the standards set out in DVLA's "At a Glance Guide to the Current Medical Standards of Fitness to Drive", in relation to chronic neurological conditions (including multiple sclerosis). Neither the standards, nor the requirement for drivers to notify of such a prospective disability, have changed.

In early 2006, following the publication of new diagnostic criteria for multiple sclerosis by the American Neurological Association, operational guidance for case management was made more robust to ensure consistency of assessment and outcome.

High Speed Two: Finance

Stephen Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what guidance his Department has issued to High Speed Two Ltd on the availability of funds. [264259]

Paul Clark: High Speed Two is funded directly from the Department for Transport. The funding arrangements are set out in a letter from the permanent secretary to a then director of the company, a copy of which has been placed in the Libraries of the House.

Highways Agency: Members

Mr. Winnick: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) if he will make it his policy to direct the Highways Agency to accept requests from hon. Members to accompany them to site meetings in relation to work authorised by the Highways Agency; and if he will make a statement; [265514]

(2) for what reasons the Highways Agency decided that no member of staff would accompany the hon. Member for Walsall North to a site meeting in his constituency on 20 March in relation to work being undertaken under the authorisation of the Highways Agency; [265515]

(3) what mechanisms are used by the Highways Agency for public consultation on work it plans to undertake which is likely to affect households near the site of such work; [265516]

(4) if he will make it his policy to direct the Highways Agency to notify each household in an area in which work authorised by the Highways Agency is to be carried out; and if he will make a statement. [265517]

Paul Clark *[holding answer 20 March 2009]:* The Highways Agency already accepts reasonable requests to meet hon. Members either on site or separately on any schemes for which it is responsible.

Representatives from the Highways Agency accompanied the hon. Member for Walsall, North to a site meeting on 20 March to discuss the details of the Active Traffic Management scheme currently being undertaken on the M6 in his constituency.

Where appropriate, the Highways Agency consults those likely to be affected by schemes being undertaken, and this was the case with the scheme on the M6. The Highways Agency has followed all environmental assessment and statutory procedures, including issuing public notices. It has listened to concerns raised, and has taken residents' concerns about current noise levels into consideration. An exhibition is planned where further issues can be raised. The scheme design has also been reviewed in the light of comments received.

Schemes carried out by the Highways Agency on or near highway land vary in complexity and scale. For schemes planned outside of the highway boundary, such as bypass work, the Highways Agency makes every effort to contact individual households and businesses likely to be affected.

Work carried out within the highway boundary tends to be of a relatively smaller scale, or is carried out as part of a routine maintenance programme. Although there is no statutory requirement for local residents to be contacted ahead of schemes taking place within the highway boundary, and it would be impractical and costly for the Highway's Agency to undertake to contact individual households for each one of these schemes, the Highways Agency seeks to ensure that public involvement takes place in a proportionate manner.

Intercity Express Programme

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what the evidential basis is for his statement of 12 February 2009, *Official Report*, columns 1531-3W, on new trains (investment) that the award of the contract to Agility Trains and Hitachi and granting preferred bidder status to Bombardier in relation to extra carriages on the Stansted Express will safeguard or create 12,500 jobs. [262929]

Paul Clark: These figures are based on information given by Agility Trains to the Department of Transport and we believe Agility's analysis to be sound.

The figure is exclusive of any job benefits arising as a result of the announcement of Bombardier's status as Preferred Bidder for extra carriages on Stansted Express.

Motor Vehicles: Safety

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many stretch limousines were checked by Vehicle and Operator Services Agency to ensure compliance with construction requirements in 2008; and what percentage were deemed to be compliant. [264936]

Jim Fitzpatrick *[holding answer 20 March 2009]:* The Vehicle and Operator Services Agency (VOSA) has only recently introduced the capacity to record a specific vehicle type as a limousine. Previously vehicles were classed as either cars or Public Service Vehicles (PSV)s.

VOSA's records show that 58 checks were carried out on limousines in 2008. It is not possible to determine levels of compliance.

Railways

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many staff in his Department have worked on projects relating to high speed rail *(a)* between April and 29 September 2008 and *(b)* after 29 September 2008. [262423]

Paul Clark: I refer the hon. Member to the answer on 25 November 2008, *Official Report*, column 1189W.

Mark Hunter: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what the average journey time by train was from London to *(a)* Newcastle, *(b)* Cardiff, *(c)* Birmingham, *(d)* Manchester and *(e)* Plymouth in each year since 1997. [265090]

Paul Clark: The Department for Transport does not hold the information at the level of detail requested. However, Network Rail is the custodian of timetable and performance data for the rail industry, and will be able to provide this information. The hon. Member should contact Network Rail's Chief Executive at the following address for a response to his question:

Iain Coucher
Chief Executive
Network Rail
40 Melton Street
London, NW1 2EE.

Roads and Railways

Mr. Gordon Prentice: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what the average cost of constructing a mile of *(a)* motorway and *(b)* railway was in the latest period for which figures are available. [264689]

Paul Clark: The estimated range of construction costs for one mile of three-lane motorway with a continuous hard shoulder is from £21.4 million to £35.0 million. The estimated rates cover the construction costs of a new dual three-lane rural motorway including detailed design costs and statutory undertakers' diversions, but excluding land costs, VAT and Highways Agency's Agent and administration costs.

The Channel Tunnel Rail Link between Folkestone and London St. Pancras, which was built over the nine years to 2007, cost £5.8 billion in outturn money of the day costs, for the 68 miles, an average of £85.3 million per mile of railway. These costs include the two new stations on the line, the upgrading and restoration of the Grade I listed St. Pancras, extensive tunnelling under London, tunnels under the Thames and North Downs, and the long viaducts at Ashford, across the River Medway and crossing the M25 at Dartford.

Roads: Snow and Ice

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what powers the Highways Agency has to requisition supplies of grit from local authorities; and on what occasions these powers have been used. [263920]

Paul Clark: During the severe weather in February, the Secretary of State for Transport had no power to requisition supplies of road salt or grit from local authorities. Informal arrangements have been put into place between both local and strategic highway authorities for the agreed provision of mutual aid to those authorities that require additional salt stocks during the winter season. During the recent severe weather, the Highways Agency agreed to provide 5,294 tonnes of salt to a number of local authorities.

Rolling Stock: Procurement

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport pursuant to the Statement of 12 February 2009, *Official Report*, columns 1531-3, how many of the 12,500 jobs he expects will be *(a)* existing jobs safeguarded and *(b)* new jobs created (i) in the train vehicle manufacturing industry and (ii) for third party suppliers to the industry; and on what assumptions these estimates are based. [261553]

Paul Clark *[holding answer 6 March 2009]:* Agility Trains anticipates that of the estimated 12,500 total jobs to be created or safeguarded, 2,500 will be directly employed by the Agility Trains consortium. Of these, 1,400 (estimate) jobs will be safeguarded in train maintenance, and 1,100 (estimate) jobs will be created in train and factory construction.

Of the remaining estimated 10,000 jobs Agility Trains anticipate that they are likely to be within train vehicle component suppliers, third party suppliers and the wider economy. Agility Trains advises that it has adopted an industry standard multiplier assumption, used with regard to the automotive industry, that each direct job will create, or secure, circa four jobs within the supply chain and the wider economy.

Transport: Eco-Towns

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what discussions his Department has had with the promoters of the Whitehill Bordon eco-town on *(a)* transport costs in the initial years of the development, *(b)* the (i) viability and (ii) cost of the proposed A325 fast bus link works and *(c)* levels of car use in the area. [265279]

Paul Clark: To date, the Department for Transport has had no discussion with the promoters of the Whitehill Bordon eco-town on the specific issues to which the question refers. The transport strategy for Whitehill Bordon is still in its early stages of development. Department for Transport officials continue to be informed of its progress and, should the town be included in the list of preferred sites to be announced later this year, it is anticipated that further discussions will then take place.

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what discussions his Department and its agencies have had with the developers of the Ford Airfield eco-town development on *(a)* a bypass on the A27, *(b)* a link from the site to the A259 and *(c)* the development's rail strategy. [265280]

Paul Clark: The Highways Agency is holding discussions with the promoters of Ford eco-town and other stakeholders to identify appropriate measures to address the current issues on the A27. This will primarily be based on the provision of sustainable travel initiatives with additional road capacity as a last resort.

Previous proposals for a bypass for Arundel, as recommended in the South Coast Multi-modal Study (2004), were rejected by the then Secretary of State for Transport as being too environmentally damaging. The promoters of the eco-town have been asked to develop proposals on the basis that such a bypass would not be constructed.

Any link from the site to the A259 would be a local road, and therefore an issue for the local highway authority, in this case West Sussex county council. The Highways Agency has therefore not been involved in any such discussion.

There has been no direct engagement between Department for Transport officials and the promoters for Ford eco-town on rail issues.

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what discussions *(a)* his Department and *(b)* Network Rail have had with the developers of the St. Austell eco-town development on a rail strategy for the site. [265281]

Paul Clark: The Department for Transport has had no discussions with the developers of the St. Austell eco-town development on a rail strategy for the site. Network Rail has received one presentation from the developers on the proposals for the site.

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what discussions *(a)* his Department and *(b)* the Highways Agency have had with the developers of the St. Austell eco-town development on the proposed improvements to the A391; and if he will make a statement. [265282]

Paul Clark: The Department for Transport and Highways Agency have not had direct contact with the developers of the St. Austell eco-town as the main coordination of this large project is being led by Cornwall county council. The department and Highways Agency are in regular discussions with the council and are working collectively to improve the transport proposals associated with the eco-town development.

DEFENCE

Afghanistan: Peacekeeping Operations

Mr. Ancram: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many military engagements there have been between UK armed forces and Taliban insurgents in the last two months. [265311]

Mr. Hutton: The Ministry of Defence is currently collating and validating the data needed to answer this question. I will write to the right hon. and learned Member with the information requested and place a copy of my letter in the Library of the House.

Mr. Ancram: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether UK armed forces are using unmanned aerial vehicles in Afghanistan. [265312]

Mr. Hutton: The armed forces use Reaper, Hermes 450 and the Desert Hawk 3 unmanned aerial vehicles in Afghanistan.

Africa: Conflict Prevention

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much his Department has contributed to the Africa Programme of the Conflict Prevention Pool in each year since 2001. [265123]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: From 2001 to 2007, HMG funded its conflict related programme activity through the Global Conflict Prevention Pool (GCPP) and Africa Conflict Prevention Pool (ACPP), owned and managed tri-departmentally by DFID, FCO and MOD. By bringing together the UK Government's development, diplomatic, and defence interests and expertise this ensured a coherent response to conflict prevention. In 2001, all three Departments contributed funds to form these pools (£2.1 million disbursed by the FCO; £14.4 million by DFID and £3.2 million by MOD), but in subsequent years funds have been allocated directly from HMT. The Conflict Prevention Pool (CPP) was set up in April 2008 as a successor to the former Global and Africa Conflict Prevention Pools, focusing activity through regional programmes where the UK can have its biggest impact, and through thematic programmes to deal with cross-cutting conflict prevention issues. The CPP commands a total of £112 million in 2008-09 of which the Africa Conflict Prevention Programme is forecast to spend £68 million. From FY 2001-02 to 2007-08, HMG has spent approximately £341 million through the Africa Conflict Prevention Pool. This is broken down by year as follows:

	£ million
2001-02	19.7
2002-03	45.3
2003-04	47.2
2004-05	63.7
2005-06	48.2
2006-07	57
2007-08	60

Air Force: Military Bases

Mr. Gray: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) with reference to the answer of 26 November 2008, *Official Report*, column 1520W, on the Air Force: military bases, when he now expects an announcement to be made regarding Programme Belvedere; [264868]

(2) when he expects to receive a recommendation on the preferred option for Programme Belvedere. [264869]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: As explained in my written answer of 11 March 2009, *Official Report*, column 430W, the future of Programme Belvedere is currently under consideration at senior levels within the Department. Once that review has concluded I will write to the hon. Member.

Apprentices

Mrs. Curtis-Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many apprenticeships places there have been in his Department in each of the last three years; in what areas of operations those places have been; and how many people his Department has provided work experience for in each such year. [262393]

Mr. Kevan Jones: The MOD is the largest public sector employer of apprentices in the UK. In the last three reporting year periods the following apprentice place completions have been achieved within the Department:

Apprentice place completions

	Number
2005-06	8,147
2006-07	7,446
2007-08	8,758

The largest area of operations for completions is within the engineering sector, with other areas including: agriculture; business administration; construction; health and public services; hospitality; transportation; retailing and customer services.

Work experience is not part of the departmental plan for apprenticeship delivery. Estimates of wider departmental work experience activities could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Armed Forces: Families

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what recent steps the Government have taken to assist service widows and widowers. [263456]

Mr. Kevan Jones *[holding answer 16 March 2009]*: The Government are committed to supporting bereaved families and we have been working in conjunction with both the Royal British Legion and the War Widows Association to identify areas in which we can enhance the support we provide.

CRUSE Bereavement has recently received funding to enable them to train volunteers to address the specific needs of bereaved service families.

Armed Forces: Northern Ireland

Mr. Ancram: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many armed forces personnel were deployed in Northern Ireland on the latest date for which figures are available. [265120]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: Following the end of Operation BANNER in July 2007 the Joint Declaration provided authority for no more than 5,000 troops resident in Northern Ireland. There are normally around 4,500 troops resident in Northern Ireland.

Armed Forces: Pay

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the average pay is for *(a)* officers and *(b)* other ranks at each level in the armed services. [264965]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The information requested is provided in the table.

The figures include all regular officers and other ranks on the main pay scales. Regular officers and other ranks who are on separate bespoke pay spines, e.g. chaplains, medical and dental officers, professional aviators, officers promoted from the ranks, as well as reservists, are excluded. While Army ranks are shown, the figures also incorporate their equivalent ranks in the RN and RAF.

The averages are based on pay rates for 2008-09 and numbers as at January 2009.

Other ranks are allocated to either the higher or lower pay spines in accordance with their trade.

Rank	*Average pay (£)*
Officers	
Chief of the Defence Staff	231,342.48
General	164,280.65
Lieutenant General	122,404.37
Major General	101,444.98
Brigadier	94,466.91
Colonel	80,381.43
Lieutenant Colonel	68,230.61
Major	50,487.64
Captain	39,433.73
Lieutenant/2nd Lieutenant	26,987.44
Other ranks—higher pay spine	
Warrant Officer 1	42,882.83
Warrant Officer 2 and Staff Sergeant	39,175.30
Sergeant	33,609.32
Corporal	29,836.48
Lance Corporal and Private	25,335.81
Other ranks—lower pay spine	
Warrant Officer 1	40,576.11
Warrant Officer 2 and Staff Sergeant	35,723.78
Sergeant	31,086.91
Corporal	27,421.40
Lance Corporal and Private	18,652.27
Other ranks—personnel under training	
New Entrant	13,012.80

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the minimum pay *(a)* range and *(b)* level is for armed forces personnel serving on the frontline in Iraq or Afghanistan. [264966]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The minimum pay range for a trained service person serving in Iraq or Afghanistan is currently £16,227 to £27,599 depending on service, rank, length of service and trade. Details of this and other pay ranges for all service personnel up to the rank of Brigadier and equivalent are contained in the 37th Report—2008 of the Armed Forces' Pay Review Body, copies of which are available in the Library of the House.

In addition to basic pay, service personnel deployed on a six month operational tour in Iraq or Afghanistan will receive a tax free operational allowance of £2,380 plus a longer separation allowance worth a minimum of £1,161.

Armed Forces: Deployment

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many service personnel are stationed overseas, broken down by location. [265133]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: Figures for the number of service personnel stationed overseas can be found in table 1.1 of Tri-Service Publication (TSP) 10: UK Regular Forces stationed location. TSP 10 is published quarterly. The most recent publication shows figures at 1 October 2008 and can be found at:

http://www.dasa.mod.uk/applications/newWeb/www/index
.php?page=48&pubType=0&thiscontent=1800&Publish
Time=09:30:00 &date=20090223&disText=01%20Oct%202008
&from=listing&top Date =2009-02-23

Defence Equipment

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what steps his Department takes to prevent delays in the delivery of equipment affecting the safety of the armed forces in theatre. [264446]

Mr. Hutton: The Government place the highest priority on the safety and security of our servicemen and women while on operations. If the arrival of a new piece of equipment to theatre is delayed, then commanders on the ground will either continue using existing equipment coupled with the appropriate tactics, techniques and procedures until the new capability is available; or, adapt operations to achieve the same aim while avoiding exposing troops to disproportionate risk.

It should be noted that, even once new equipment has been delivered, technology alone cannot guarantee the safety of deployed troops. It is their adherence to the correct tactics, techniques and procedures that provide the greatest assurance of their safety and these are constantly revised in line with experience and any new developments in the enemy's tactics.

Departmental Bank Services

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence with which banks his Department has or has had contracts for the provision of financial advice, for the financial year 2008-09. [262761]

Mr. Hutton: In the past, the MOD has contracted with banks for financial advice to support private finance and partnering projects and reviews of future models for defence business. But we hold no current contracts of this sort centrally. Information on any other contracts that may have been awarded to banks for financial advice is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Public Consultation

Mr. Vara: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many public consultations his Department has conducted in the last 12 months; how long each consultation was open for; how many responses were received in each case; and what the cost of conducting each consultation was. [259699]

Mr. Kevan Jones: There have been four Ministry of Defence public consultations (as listed on the MOD internet site) over the last 12 months. These consultations consist of:

> Submarine Enterprise Collaborative Agreement (SECA), 12 February to 6 May, there were 47 responses;
>
> UK Defence Spectrum Management 2008, 30 May to 5 September, there were 32 responses;
>
> The Revised Welsh Language Scheme, 16 July to 10 October, there were 25 responses;
>
> Transfer of Historic Service Personnel Records to the National Archives, July to September, there were 428 responses.

Information about the cost of conducting these consultations is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Recruitment

Justine Greening: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the answer of 23 February 2009, *Official Report*, column 30W, on departmental recruitment, what estimate he has made of the annual salary cost of new *(a)* permanent, *(b)* temporary and *(c)* agency staff recruited by his Department in each year since 2005-06. [264310]

Mr. Kevan Jones: The annual salary costs for permanent and temporary staff employed by the Department in each year since 2005-06 are published in departmental annual reports and accounts. We are unable to identify the costs of newly recruited staff separately. Salary costs of agency staff are met by their employing agencies and not by the Department.

Departmental Temporary Employment

Justine Greening: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what his Department's policy is on the renewal of the contracts of *(a)* temporary and *(b)* agency staff. [264312]

Mr. Kevan Jones: The recruitment of temporary staff is governed by the Civil Service Commissioners' Recruitment Code. Agency workers are used as an interim measure for periods of up to 11 months to fill complemented and funded posts that cannot be filled by temporary promotion or internal posting or other recruitment action. In exceptional cases temporary staff may be extended up to a maximum of 24 months.

Departmental Training

Mr. Hands: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the answer of 1 January 2009, *Official Report*, column 1994W, on departmental training, which Ministers attended the pre-deployment training in preparation for visits to Iraq and Afghanistan; and how much that training cost. [265663]

Mr. Hutton: I refer the hon. Member to the answer the Under-Secretary of State gave on 10 March 2009, *Official Report*, column 235W, to the hon. Member for St. Albans (Anne Main).

Departmental Translation Services

Mr. Frank Field: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many language translators are employed in each of his Department's executive agencies; and what the cost of translating services provided by such people was in the latest period for which information is available. [257150]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: None of the Department's Agencies employs language translators and therefore incurred no costs on employing such people. Information on non-departmental public bodies (NDPBs) is not held by the Ministry of Defence but by the NDPBs themselves.

EU Battlegroups

Dr. Murrison: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what estimate he has made of the cost to the public purse of the Government's participation in the permanent structural co-operation framework foreseen in the Lisbon Treaty. [265524]

Mr. Hutton: No such estimate has been made. There have been no decisions on the scope of permanent structured co-operation, nor on possible UK participation, in the event that the Lisbon Treaty is ratified by all 27 EU member states.

Ex-Services Mental Welfare Society

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much his Department has given to the Ex-Services Mental Welfare Society Combat Stress in each year since 2005. [265135]

Mr. Kevan Jones: Funds are provided through the War Pensions Scheme's discretionary power to meet the cost of any necessary expenses in respect of medical, surgical or rehabilitative treatment of ex-members of the armed forces that arise from a disablement due to service before 6 April 2005 where it is not provided for under other UK legislation. This includes the individual costs of war pensioners undergoing "remedial treatment" at homes run by Combat Stress for conditions related to their individual pensioned disablement and of related expenses such as travel costs. The table shows the funding received by Combat Stress under this provision. The funding figure for 2008-09 is not yet available.

Income received by Combat Stress to defray individual treatment expenses

	£ million
2005-06	2.3
2006-07	2.5
2007-08	3.2

Combat Stress receives separate funding from the Scottish Executive for war pensioners' resident in Scotland who receive treatment at Hollybush House.

HMS Victorious

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence when HMS Victorious is scheduled to visit the United States for missile tests and missile loading. [264967]

Mr. Hutton: It is our policy not to discuss individual submarine operations.

Joint Working Groups

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the date was of each meeting of each sub-group of each Joint Working Group since 2001; and what the purpose was of each meeting. [265112]

Mr. Hutton: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave him on 27 February 2009, *Official Report*, column 1149W. In the interests of national security I am withholding further information on the nature or extent of work undertaken by these Joint Working Groups.

Loss of Service Will

John Hemming: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many reports his Department has received of the loss of a service will in each year since 2004. [264889]

Mr. Kevan Jones: The information requested is not recorded by the Ministry of Defence.

Military Aircraft: Helicopters

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many flying hours were undertaken by each helicopter type in the forward fleet in each year since 2001. [264955]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave on 14 July 2008, *Official Report*, column 173W, to the hon. Member for Woodspring (Dr. Fox).

Figures for the period to April 2009 are not yet available.

Nuclear Weapons

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence in which years since 1990 experiments have been carried out with the United States on US warhead designs and nuclear weapons technology. [265113]

Mr. Hutton: Research, including trials, and experiments, is conducted on a regular basis, by the Atomic Weapons Establishment as part of its responsibility for maintaining the safety, security, and effectiveness of the UK nuclear stockpile in the absence of live testing. Some of this research, is undertaken in collaboration with the United States under the auspices of the 1958 Mutual Defence Agreement.

Following publication of the 2006 White Paper, "The Future of the United Kingdom's Nuclear Deterrent" (Cmd 6994) and the subsequent exchange of letters between Prime Minister Blair and President George W. Bush in December 2006, additional research is currently being undertaken, some in collaboration with the US, on how we may need to refurbish or replace our current warheads to help inform decisions, likely to be made in the next parliament.

I am withholding the detail of this collaboration in the interests of national security.

Special Forces

Mr. Ancram: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what proportion of British special forces were deployed outside the UK on the latest date for which figures are available. [265126]

Mr. Hutton: It is the long-standing policy of this Government not to comment on matters relating to operations involving British special forces.

Sudan: Military Aid

Andrew Stunell: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much his Department has spent on the provision of defence training in Sudan in each year since 2003; what training activities were provided; and which *(a)* provider and *(b)* recipient organisation participated in each activity. [264326]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: All training delivered by the MOD in Sudan is to members of the Joint Integrated Units (JIUs), which are made up of equally sized elements of the armies of North and South Sudan. JIUs were established as a peace-building measure under the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA) that ended the war between North and South. The CPA mandates members of the international community who supported the peace process, including the UK, to provide training and other support to the JIUs.

The MOD does not, however, directly fund any training in Sudan; instead the UK training programme is financed by the tri-departmental Conflict Prevention Pool. It has included the training of the JIUs' first de-mining Company, delivered by the International Mine Action Training Centre in Kenya, a wide range of individual courses conducted at military establishments in the UK as well as conflict resolution workshops and English language training conducted in Sudan. Specific information for 2003-04 and 2004-05 is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost, but is assessed to have been very low as we then had no Defence Section in Sudan. Since then the following training activities have been provided:

Financial year 2006-07—£265,000

International Peace Support Briefing Programme (2 students)

International Collective Training Briefing Programme (2)

International Border Security Management Briefing (2)

Managing Defence in a Democracy (now Managing Defence in a Wider Security Context)—Nairobi (6)

Managing Defence in a Democracy (now Managing Defence in a Wider Security Context)—UK (3)

De-mining training, Nairobi—1 Company (120) of JIUs. British Peace Support Team—East Africa International Mine Action Training Centre

Financial year 2007-08—£248,000

Managing Defence in a Democracy (now Managing Defence in a Wider Security Context)—Nairobi (4)

Managing Defence in a Democracy (now Managing Defence in a Wider Security Context)—UK (2)

Commissioning Course (2)

International Peace Support Briefing Programme (2)

International Collective Training Briefing (2)

International Battle Group Commanders Course (6)

English language training—Sudan (160)

De-mining Training, Nairobi—1 company (120). British Peace Support Team—East Africa International Mine Action Training Centre

Financial year 2008-09—£282,000

Advanced Command and Staff Course (2)

International Peace Support Operations (7)

English language training—Sudan (up to 144)

Train the Trainer (4)

International Logistic Officers Course (1)

In financial year 2008-09 the UK also provided £750,000 through the Africa Conflict Prevention Pool to the UN to provide infrastructural support for the JIUs.

Trident

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what estimate he has made of the proportion of spending on the replacement for Trident which will go to US companies. [264971]

Mr. Hutton: The work necessary to ensure the maintenance of the UK's nuclear deterrent is still in the concept phase. The investment decision point, Initial Gate, for the new submarine class to replace Vanguard class is not expected until this autumn. As such, it is too soon for such an estimate to be made.

Warships: Persian Gulf

Mr. Ancram: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many Royal Navy ships were deployed in the Persian Gulf on the latest date for which figures are available. [265143]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The Royal Navy has the following ships deployed to the Persian Gulf as at 18 March:

A permanent Frigate, currently HMS Richmond, is deployed to the North Arabian Gulf patrolling the oil platforms in the Iraqi territorial waters.

A Landing Ship Docking Amphibious, currently RFA Cardigan Bay, also operates around the Iraqi oil platforms providing a training platform for the Iraqi Navy and Marines.

There are four Mine Countermeasures Vessels permanently based at Bahrain, their crews rotating on a four to six monthly basis. The ships: HMS Atherstone, HMS Chiddingfold, HMS Grimsby and HMS Pembrooke.

A Forward Repair Ship, RFA Dilligence also operates in the Gulf and further out into the North Arabian sea providing engineering support, predominately to the Mine Counter Measures Vessels.

In addition two units, the Frigate HMS Portland and the Tanker RFA Wave Knight, permanently operate predominately in the North Arabian sea, Gulf of Oman and Gulf of Aden, but make routine visits within the Persian Gulf for maintenance, consolidation and crew rest and recuperation.

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

Afghanistan: Drugs

Mr. Burstow: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent estimate he has made of the area in hectares and proportion of cultivatable land in Helmand province which is under cultivation for poppies; and if he will make a statement. [263417]

Bill Rammell: The UN Office of Drugs and Crime (UNODC) Afghanistan Opium Survey for 2008 estimates that 33 per cent. (103,590 hectares) of the land in Helmand with the potential for agriculture was devoted to poppy cultivation in 2008. In their winter survey, UNODC has indicated that there may be a slight decrease in the cultivation of poppy in Helmand in 2009. Final figures for 2009 will be published in the summer when UNODC releases the executive summary of its Afghanistan Opium Survey for 2009.

The UK welcomes the early signs that cultivation of poppy in Helmand may be reducing. We continue to support the government of Afghanistan's national drug control strategy which aims to reduce poppy cultivation sustainably in Afghanistan.

AIDS

Harry Cohen: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how much his Department has allocated for the next financial year to fund its commitments under the Government's AIDS strategy in 2009-10. [260210]

Gillian Merron: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) is committed to using its overseas network of posts to support 'Achieving Universal Access'. Posts in are being encouraged to use their existing budgets to support effective national AIDS responses to halt and reverse the spread of HIV, in particular among vulnerable groups. It is therefore not possible to state how much the FCO will allocate to funding for the Government's AIDS strategy in 2009-10.

Bali: Terrorism

Mr. Ellwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will make representations to the Indonesian government on concluding the judicial process of those who masterminded the terrorist attack in Bali 2002. [264109]

Bill Rammell: There are currently no judicial processes in Indonesia relating to the Bali 2002 terrorist attacks.

We would welcome any further legal processes aimed at bringing to justice those suspected of involvement in the Bali attacks. It is the policy of the Government, that terrorists should always be brought to justice. However, the UK does not support the use of the death penalty. We advocate an end to the death penalty world-wide, regardless of the individual or the crime.

Belarus: Human Rights

Mrs. Curtis-Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent assessment he has made of the human rights situation in Belarus. [265589]

Caroline Flint: The full extent of our human rights concerns in Belarus is detailed in the 2008 Human Rights Report, which will be published on 26 March 2009. We remain concerned about the overall human rights situation in Belarus, but small improvements have been made in the areas of media freedom, freedom of assembly, electoral reform and political imprisonment during the six months from October 2008 to April 2008 that the EU suspended travel restrictions to encourage reform.

To reflect the mixed progress made by Belarus during this time, the EU has taken the decision to extend the suspension period for a further nine months, and renew the common position (the legal basis for the travel restrictions and an asset freeze) for 12 months. We will take this opportunity to continue to encourage Belarus to make further progress on human rights in order to align itself with EU standards.

Burma: Political Prisoners

John Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent reports he has received of the number of political prisoners in Burma. [265357]

Bill Rammell: The UN Special Rapporteur on Human rights in Myanmar, Mr. Tomas Quintana, in a statement to the Human Rights Council on 18 March 2009, indicated that there remain over 2,100 prisoners of conscience in Burma. This figure is in line with our own estimates.

John Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what representations he has made to the Burmese Government on the sentencing of Eint Khaing Oo for reporting on Cyclone Nargis. [265877]

Bill Rammell: We condemn the lack of media freedom in Burma and the arrest and detention of journalists, including Eint Khaing Oo.

Our ambassador in Rangoon frequently raises the need for the release of all political prisoners in Burma with ministers in the military government. We also take every opportunity to underline our concern in our public statements and through the EU, UN Security Council and UN human rights bodies. We support the work of the UN Special Rapporteur on Human rights in Myanmar, Mr. Tomas Quintana, who, in a statement to the Human Rights Council on 18 March 2009, again called on the Burmese authorities to release all prisoners of conscience.

Burma: Politics and Government

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent discussions he has had with Burmese authorities on the political situation in Burma. [264125]

Bill Rammell *[holding answer 19 March 2009]:* We continue to do all we can to generate international pressure for a peaceful transition to democracy and respect for human rights in Burma. The Common Position adopted by the EU restricts ministerial contact with the military regime.

In his contacts with the Burmese authorities, our ambassador in Rangoon regularly raises the urgent need for all political prisoners to be released and for all opposition and ethnic groups to be allowed to play their full part in shaping the country's future.

Elections planned for 2010 will have no credibility unless these fundamental issues are addressed.

Burma: Religious Freedom

John Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what discussions he *(a)* has had and *(b)* plans to have with the UN Special Rapporteur on Freedom of Religion and Belief on reported violations of religious freedom in Burma, with particular reference to reported discrimination and persecution of Christians and Muslims. [264919]

Bill Rammell: We are concerned by reports that the Burmese authorities have closed places of worship for religious minorities and childcare centres run by Christian groups in Rangoon. We condemn the marginalisation or persecution of any community based on their religious beliefs or ethnic background. Although it makes the reported abuses no less serious, we believe that the persecution of religious minority groups by the Burmese authorities is often based on their ethnicity and perceived threat to security rather than their faith. We view the regime's actions as part of a wider deterioration in the human rights situation in Burma.

The issue of religious freedom is within the mandate of the UN Special Rapporteur for Human Rights in Burma, Tomas Ojea Quintana, which covers human rights and fundamental freedoms.

We hold regular discussions with Mr. Quintana and his team concerning the human rights abuses we believe to be taking place in Burma, and fully support his efforts. Our ambassador in Burma regularly raises the issue of human rights in his meetings with Burmese government officials.

Burma: United Nations

John Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether his Department has had contact with the Special Adviser to the UN Secretary General on Myanmar since 1 January 2009. [265475]

Bill Rammell: Our mission to the UN in New York is in regular contact with the UN Special Adviser, Ibrahim Gambari and his office. This dialogue was particularly frequent before and after Professor Gambari's visit to Burma from 31 January 2009 to 3 February 2009 and after his briefing to the UN Security Council on 20 February 2009.

We continue to give our full support to the UN Secretary General's Good Offices mission.

Cambodia: Human Rights

Mr. Mullin: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what representations he has made to the government of Cambodia on Lor Seiha and others imprisoned on charges arising from their resistence to forced evictions; and if he will make a statement. [264246]

Bill Rammell: The UK, in our capacity as the local EU presidency, arranged for EU Heads of Mission to meet with non-governmental organisation (NGOs) representatives and Dey Krahom leaders on 29 January 2009 to hear their concerns on forced evictions.

We have raised our concerns over land rights and forced evictions with the Cambodian authorities on a number of occasions, most recently with the Cambodian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Co-operation in a Note Verbale sent on 2 March 2009.

Representatives from EU member states, the local Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) and a local NGOs visited a site in Phnom Penh and also visited the Dey Krahom relocation site on 20 February 2009 to meet members of the local communities. They were accompanied by a representative of the Phnom Penh municipal authorities.

EU member states will maintain dialogue on these issues with the Phnom Penh authorities and have made clear to the royal government of Cambodia their support for the OHCHR's proposal for development of guidelines to regulate evictions and relocations and a moratorium on evictions.

China: Family Planning

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what representations he has made to the government of China regarding alleged abuse of those who protest against the one child policy in China since July 2008; and if he will make a statement. [259021]

Bill Rammell: We are aware of reports of mal-administration of China's one child policy, but have not received reports of protests against it since July 2008.

We remain concerned, however, about the continued imprisonment of human rights lawyer Chen Guangcheng, who highlighted reports of enforced sterilisation and abortion in Linyi City, Shandong Province in late 2005. Chen Guangcheng's case was raised most recently at the EU-China Human Rights Dialogue in November 2008. We continue to monitor Mr. Chen's situation and that of his family.

Departmental Accountancy

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs with reference to paragraph 88 of the Foreign Affairs Committee's Second Report of Session 2008-09, HC 195, on his Department's Annual Report for 2007-08, when he expects to publish details of the cost savings accruing from his Department's co-location programmes; and if he will make a statement. [256990]

David Miliband: Various partners across Government co-locate with the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO). These partners base their operations within FCO missions overseas and use the support of FCO staff in management and administrative positions.

By not having to set up their own offices these Departments make efficiency savings as well as avoiding additional costs for the Department and tax payer. However we have not been informed of the cost savings made by other Departments in this manner, and cannot therefore publish details of them.

Departmental Catering

David T.C. Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs which *(a)* food and *(b)* drinks suppliers have been used by his Department in each of the last three years; and how much his Department paid to each such supplier in each of those years. [248385]

Gillian Merron: The two contracted suppliers of food and drink used by the Foreign and Commonwealth Office are as follows:

		£
	Directors Table	*Mountain Spring*
2005-06	305,520.99	1740.15
2006-07	451,191.79	16,204.39
2007-08	353,761.09	21,659.26

From 1 December 2008 the contract with Mountain Spring has been terminated.

There is a large difference between spend on Mountain Spring during the 2005-06 period and the subsequent years as there were various suppliers used in 2005-06.

Identifying these suppliers and the amounts spent would incur disproportionate cost.

The figures do not include spend by Government Hospitality, individual departmental spend or spend locally by post overseas, as this could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Internet

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the Answer to the hon. Member for Welwyn Hatfield of 23 February 2009, *Official Report*, columns 369-73W, on the departmental internet, how many hits each of the websites maintained by his Department received in each of the last 12 months. [262836]

Caroline Flint: I will write to the hon. Member separately, as the answer is lengthy.

Departmental Public Expenditure

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the answer of 21 January 2009, *Official Report*, columns 1523-6W, on departmental public expenditure, in what areas of expenditure the administration budget overspends in relation to *(a)* Afghanistan, *(b)* Australia, *(c)* Brazil, *(d)* Spain and *(e)* the United States were incurred in 2007-08. [260246]

David Miliband: The main areas of overspend in administration budgets were:

(a) Afghanistan

Subsistence and allowances
Other purchased goods and services
Telecommunications costs
Freight and courier costs
Other costs, including embassy catering services
Other external/contract services

(b) Australia

Subsistence and allowances
Training costs
IT costs
Agency and casual staff
Other external/contract services
Maintenance and running costs
Locally engaged staff salaries

(c) Brazil

Freight and courier costs
Vehicle costs
Other purchased goods and services
Medical costs
Subsistence and allowances
Locally engaged staff salaries
Agency and casual staff
Maintenance and running costs

(d) Spain

Other purchased goods and services
Other costs
Training costs
Locally engaged staff salaries
Subsistence and allowances
Telecommunications costs
Other external/contract services
Agency and casual staff

(e) US

Consultancy and professional fees
Freight and courier costs
Hire of plant and machinery
IT Costs
Financial charges
Stationery
Agency and casual Staff
Subsistence and allowances
Maintenance and running costs
Telecommunications costs
Other purchased goods and services.

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the Answer of 2 March 2009, *Official Report*, column 1240W, on departmental public expenditure, what the cost to his Department of each UK contribution to peacekeeping operations overseas *(a)* was in 2007-08 and *(b)* has been in 2008-09. [261942]

David Miliband: Peacekeeping costs—both assessed costs to international missions and UK discretionary support to international and bilateral missions—have been met through the Peacekeeping Budget which is an annual claim on the Treasury Reserve and has been managed by the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) on behalf of the FCO, Department for International Development and the Ministry of Defence (MOD). In 2007-08 and 2008-09, £374 million was allocated from the Treasury Reserve for Peacekeeping.

Pursuant to the answer of 2 March 2009, *Official Report*, column 1240W, as a cl[illegible]the Treasury Reserve, the Peacekeeping Budge[illegible]efit from the Overseas Prices Mechanism. However, from the Peacekeeping Budget, assessed contributions to peacekeeping missions paid in foreign currencies by the FCO in 2007-08 were:

	£
UN Integrated Office in Burundi (BINUB)	366,011
UN Mission in the Central African Republic and Chad (MINURCAT)	5,771,218
UN_Operation in Côte d'Ivoire (UNOCI)	15,184,311
UN Mission in the Democratic Republic of Congo (MONUC)	39,728,447
UN_Mission in Ethiopia and Eritrea (UNMEE)	3,135,316
UN Mission in Liberia (UNMIL)	25,403,196
UN African Union—United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur (UNAMID)	37,228,728
UN Mission in Sudan (UNMIS)	28,920,533
UN Peacekeeping Force in Cyprus (UNFICYP)	960,793
UN Integrated Mission in East Timor(UNMIT)	4,727,871
UN Observer Mission in Georgia (UNOMIG)	1,140,559
UN Disengagement Observer Force Zone (UNDOF)	1,393,431
UN Stabilisation Mission in Haiti (MINUSTAH)	19,062,884
UN Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo (UNMIK)	7,816,007
UN Interim Force in Lebanon(UNIFIL)	25,003,407
UN Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara (MINURSO)	1,557,670
UN International Criminal Court	6,429,102
UN International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda	4,813,809
UN International Criminal Tribunal for Yugoslavia	6,252,619
Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe field missions	8,377,220
Total	243,273,132

At current exchange rates, estimated assessed contributions to peacekeeping missions paid in foreign currencies in 2008-09 are:

	£
UN Mission in the Central African Republic and Chad (MINURCAT)	18,297,738
UN_Operation in Côte d'Ivoire (UNOCI)	19,968,022
UN Mission in the Democratic Republic of Congo (MONUC)	49,272,772
UN_Mission in Ethiopia and Eritrea (UNMEE)	1,334,652
UN Mission in Liberia (UNMIL)	25,323,581
UN African Union—United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur (UNAMID)	64,197,346
UN Mission in Sudan (UNMIS)	30,070,770
UN Peacekeeping Force in Cyprus	1,392,357
UN Integrated Mission in East Timor(UNMIT)	6,008,093
UN Observer Mission in Georgia (UNOMIG)	1,462,365
UN Disengagement Observer Force Zone (UNDOF)	1,834,559
UN Stabilisation Mission in Haiti (MINUSTAH)	24,201,172
UN Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo (UNMIK)	7,480,504
UN Interim Force in Lebanon(UNIFIL)	28,307,578
UN Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara (MINURSO)	1,764,832
UN International Criminal Court	5,463,876
UN International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda	5,403,725
UN International Criminal Tribunal for Yugoslavia	7,145,468
UN/AU UN Logistical Support to African Union Mission to Somalia (AMISOM)	1,960,880
Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe field missions	9,633,681
Total	310,523,971

The 2008-09 costs will be reduced by a transfer of £29.4 million from the FCO which includes gains from the benefits of the advanced purchase of foreign currency costs, based on estimated costs at the time of spring supplementary. Further assessed costs are attributed to the Peacekeeping Budget by the Treasury or paid in the relevant foreign currency by the MOD.

Elections: Monitoring

Mr. Bruce George: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what discussions he has had with Ministerial colleagues in the Treasury and the Department for International Development on alternative sources of funding for election observation in 2009-10. [261958]

Bill Rammell: The Government's ongoing discussions on conflict-related budgets for 2009-10, which include funding for election observation missions, have been between the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO), the Department for International Development and the Ministry of Defence. The Treasury has been consulted fully throughout. Final decisions have not yet been made in this process.

Election observation remains a priority for the FCO. We are reviewing internally spend for the next financial year.

Exchange Rates

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what steps will be taken to manage his Department's exposure to foreign currency movements when his Department's contract with the Bank of England to buy 80 per cent. of net US dollar and euro exposure ends. [261825]

David Miliband: To date the Foreign and Commonwealth Office has secured several contracts with the Bank of England which provide the full cover allowed for our forecast US dollar and euro net exposure up to February 2010, and partial cover over the intervening months to January 2011. HM Treasury have limited the amount of cover we can purchase to a maximum of 80 per cent. of our net foreign exchange exposure at overseas posts, but up to 100 per cent. for known commitments to international organisations.

Each month a further contract is secured with the Bank of England, to extend full cover and partial cover an additional month. Thus the March 2010 contract will secure full cover for March 2010 and partial cover over the intervening months to February 2011.

Contracts have also been secured for Japanese yen that currently extend to March 2010. Additional contracts will be purchased in due course.

Hezbollah

Mr. Dismore: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the Minister of State's evidence to the Foreign Affairs Select Committee on 4 March 2009, with which members of Hezbollah's political wing the Government has made contact. [264752]

Bill Rammell: On 9 January 2009 our ambassador in Beirut accompanied a group of British parliamentarians to a meeting with the Lebanese Foreign Affairs Committee that included the Hezbollah MP, Ali Amaar.

Mr. Dismore: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs for what reasons the Government ceased contact with both the political and military wings of Hezbollah in 2005. [264753]

Bill Rammell: The UK had contacts with some political officials in Hezbollah from 2001 to 2005 but no contacts with Hezbollah's military wing. Although previous discussions had been frank, they became increasingly insubstantial. The political contacts ended in 2005 as we judged that the conditions at the time, specifically the political stalemate of the Lebanese Government, meant that the talks were not productive enough to be worth continuing.

Mr. Dismore: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment he has made of the extent of co-operation between the political and military wings of Hezbollah in seeking to commit or support acts of terrorism. [264755]

Bill Rammell: In July 2008 the decision was made by the Home Office to proscribe the military wing, which we specified as the Jihad Council and all units reporting to it. During this process a thorough assessment of all the components of Hezbollah was carried out to establish this distinction.

Mr. Dismore: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment he has made of reported statements by Hezbollah's leadership that there is no distinction between the organisation's political and military wings. [264756]

Bill Rammell: In July 2008 the decision was made by the Home Office to proscribe the military wing, which we specified as the Jihad Council and all units reporting to it. During this process a thorough assessment of all the components of Hezbollah was carried out to establish this distinction between those members of Hezbollah who are legitimately involved in Lebanese politics and those who are involved in violence and support terrorism. We will not have contacts with individuals whom we assess to be involved in violence.

India: Terrorism

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many British citizens were injured during the events in Mumbai on 27 November 2008; what the *(a)* nature and *(b)* severity of such injuries was; and if he will make a statement. [265057]

Bill Rammell *[holding answer 20 March 2009]*: Seven British nationals were seriously injured during the terrorist attacks in Mumbai in November 2008. For consular confidentiality and data protection reasons, the nature and severity of those injuries cannot be disclosed.

Iran

Mr. Hollobone: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent assessment he has made of the state of diplomatic relations with Iran. [265711]

Bill Rammell: My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary has said many times that the UK would like to have a positive and constructive relationship with Iran—a relationship which is based on mutual respect and is not a prisoner of history. We believe that we have important shared interests in Iran's neighbourhood, including stability, security and economic development in Iraq and Afghanistan. However, we and the rest of the international community have significant and legitimate concerns about Iran's nuclear ambitions, its activity in the region, and its repression of its own people. Iran must address these if our relationship is to move forward. The Iranian authorities are also responsible for unacceptable harassment of our staff in Tehran, both UK based and Iranian—pressure which has forced the British Council to suspend its operation in Iran, and which obstructs the legitimate activities of our embassy. We have raised this with the Iranian authorities on numerous occasions, and we regret that they have done nothing to address this.

Iran: Nuclear Power

Mr. Gregory Campbell: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the answer to the right hon. Member for Richmond, Yorks (Mr. Hague) of 5 March 2009, *Official Report*, column 1747W, on Iran: nuclear power, what further sanctions he has considered pursuing at the United Nations. [265786]

Bill Rammell: The E3+3 made a generous offer to Iran in June 2008. This offer remains on the table. The offer presents Iran with an opportunity to transform its relationship with the international community and enjoy many significant benefits, if it suspends its enrichment programme and negotiates.

However, in the event of Iran failing to take up this opportunity and continuing to disregard its international obligations to the UN and the International Atomic Energy Agency, we will be forced to consider further measures, including the consideration of further significant sanctions through the UN.

Iraq: Capital Punishment

Mr. Carmichael: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what representations his Department has made to the Iraqi government on the reinstatement of the death penalty in Iraq in 2004. [264693]

Bill Rammell: The UK opposes the death penalty in all circumstances as a matter of principle. We continue to make our position on capital punishment clear to the Iraqi government at every opportunity both bilaterally and with the support of our EU partners. As recently as 8 March 2009 the UK joined other EU member states in supporting a démarche, delivered by the current Czech EU presidency to Iraqi vice-President Tareeq al-Hashemi and to the head of the Iraqi prime minister's office on the proposed resumption of executions in Iraq. We strongly supported the resolutions adopted by the UN General Assembly in December 2007 (A/Res/62/149) and November 2008 (A/Res/63/168) which called upon all states that maintain the death penalty to establish a moratorium on executions with a view to abolition. The resolutions expressed the conviction of the majority of UN members that the use of the death penalty undermines human dignity; recalled that there is no conclusive evidence of its deterrent value; and noted that any miscarriage or failure of justice in the implementation of the death penalty is irreversible and irreparable.

Mr. Carmichael: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what reports his Department has received of the Iraqi judicial authorities confirming death sentences against 128 Iraqi prisoners; and what steps his Department is taking on the matter. [264694]

Bill Rammell: Following reports of an imminent move to carry out the death sentences of 117 individuals on death row at Kadhamiyah-Max Prison in Iraq, the UK joined other EU member states in supporting a démarche against the sentences delivered on 8 March 2009 by the Czech EU presidency to Iraqi vice-president Tareeq al-Hashemi and to the head of the Iraqi Prime Minister's office. Vice-president al-Hashemi said he had no information about the enforcement of these sentences which had been passed by the courts in full compliance with Iraqi law and the Iraqi Constitution. We will continue to pursue the Iraqi government on this matter, including making clear our position on the death penalty.

Mr. Carmichael: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will make representations to the Iraqi authorities to make public the information they hold pertaining to the 128 people who have recently had their death sentences confirmed by the Iraqi judicial authorities. [265521]

Bill Rammell: The UK joined other EU member states in supporting a demarche against the death sentences against 117 people which was delivered on 8 March 2009 by the Czech EU presidency to Iraqi Vice President Tareeq al-Hashemi and to the Head of the Iraqi Prime Minister's Office. We are asking the Iraqi Government for further information about these sentences and regularly make clear our opposition to the death penalty.

Iraq: Females

Mr. Lidington: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent representations he has made to the government of Iraq on women's rights in Iraq; and if he will make a statement. [263561]

Bill Rammell: Our officials in Baghdad regularly meet with staff from the office of the Minister for Women's Affairs and Ministry of Human Rights. We are closely monitoring the work of the acting Minister for Women's Affairs. My right hon. Friend the Prime Minister's Special Envoy on Human Rights in Iraq also raised the situation of women with senior members of the government of Iraq during a visit on 1 March 2009.

Middle East: Armed Conflict

Mr. Leech: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the answer of 2 March 2009, *Official Report*, column 1429W, on Middle East: armed conflict, by what methods the risks that arms could be used for internal repression or external aggression are surveyed; and what steps his Department took to gather evidence on the use of arms exports in relation to Gaza. [264704]

Bill Rammell: All arms export license applications are considered on a case by case basis against the Consolidated EU and National Arms Export Licensing Criteria. This includes criteria covering internal repression and external aggression. We assess each application in the light of information received from several sources, including our embassies, non-governmental organisations and international agencies and in accordance with the EU Arms Export Users Guide, which was published in the UK's 2007 Annual Report on Strategic Export Controls.

Mrs. Curtis-Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment he has made of the conclusions of the London Conference on the prevention of arms smuggling to Gaza. [265308]

Bill Rammell: Tackling the smuggling of arms, ammunition and weapons components to armed groups in Gaza—along with opening the crossings to legitimate goods—is an important part of improving the situation there in a sustainable way.

The London conference on 13 March 2009 built on the progress made in Copenhagen on 3-5 February 2009 and agreed a Programme of Action between the nine participating countries (Canada, Denmark, France, Germany, Italy, Netherlands, Norway, the UK and the US). A copy of this programme is available on the FCO website:

http://www.fco.gov.uk/en/newsroom/

Middle East: Peace Negotiations

Mr. Ancram: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what reports he has received of the discussions between the Turkish Prime Minister and the Israeli Prime Minister on peace in the Middle East which took place between 1 November and 27 December 2008. [259999]

Bill Rammell: Turkish Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan last met Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Olmert in Turkey on 22 December 2008. The details of that meeting, and any other private conversations which may have taken place, are a matter for the governments concerned.

Mr. Gordon Prentice: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment he has made of the progress that has been made by Tony Blair as the Quartet representative; and if he will make a statement. [265407]

Bill Rammell: While we have not made a formal assessment, we judge that the Quartet representative and his office have made a valuable contribution to improving the situation on the ground.

Morocco: Fisheries

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs with reference to the answer of 6 October 2008, *Official Report*, column 124W, on Morocco: fisheries, what representations the Government has made to the Moroccan government to ensure that the indigenous people of Western Sahara receive licensing revenues or aid derived from the EU-Morocco Fisheries Agreement as a result of the fishing activity of UK trawlers in the waters of the occupied Western Sahara. [264046]

Bill Rammell *[holding answer 17 March 2009]*: The Government maintain the position that the Government of Morocco—as the de facto administering power of Western Sahara—are obliged under international law to ensure that economic activities under administration, including the extraction and exportation of phosphates, do not adversely affect the interests of the people of Western Sahara.

Our officials in Rabat discuss a range of issues relating to the Western Sahara with their Moroccan counterparts, including when appropriate the issue of fishing revenues.

There are currently only two UK vessels operating in the waters off Western Sahara under the EU—Morocco Fisheries Agreement. All the fish caught are landed in Dakhla, Western Sahara and sold through the local markets or processed in a local factory.

Morocco: Mining

Mark Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Portsmouth, South (Mr. Hancock) of 6 October 2008, *Official Report*, column 228W, on Morocco: mining, what steps the Government are taking to seek to ensure that Morocco fulfils its obligations under international law to ensure that the extraction and exportation of phosphates do not adversely affect the interests of people in Western Sahara. [264041]

Bill Rammell *[holding answer 20 March 2009]*: The UK maintains its position that Morocco, as the de facto administering power of Western Sahara, is obliged under international law to ensure that economic activities under administration—including the extraction and exportation of phosphates—do not adversely affect the interests of the people in Western Sahara. The UK has not recently raised this issue with the Moroccan authorities.

However, the Government firmly support the principles of transparency and good governance with regards to the extractive industries generally. In November 2008, the Extractive Industry Transparency Initiative (EITI) held a roundtable meeting in Tunis, which included Morocco. Participants discussed the opportunities and challenges which implementing the EITI can bring for the north African region and for further enhancing resource management and economic growth.

Nepal: Human Rights

John Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent assessment he has made of the human rights situation in Nepal. [265462]

Bill Rammell: While there have been improvements in the human rights situation in Nepal since the end of the conflict in 2006, significant challenges remain to the promotion and protection of human rights caused by the absence of rule of law. Despite the government of Nepal making repeated commitments to promoting respect for human rights, they have made limited progress. It has taken steps towards the proportional inclusion of minorities in all organs and at all levels of the state. It has also increased the budget for the national human rights commission, and has discussed the introduction of a bill to establish a truth and reconciliation commission.

The continuing impunity for past and current human rights abuses remains a key concern. It has encouraged a lack of respect for the law which encourages people to turn to violence to resolving disputes. Poor public security, particularly in the Terai (plains), where there is a proliferation of armed groups, is a major obstacle to improving human rights in Nepal. We are also concerned at the increase in intimidation and violence against journalists which is leading to self-censorship by journalists. Political interference in police investigations is commonplace and we continue to receive reports of torture in police custody.

Our embassy in Kathmandu closely monitors the human rights situation. During the past year we have raised our concerns, including at ministerial level, about attacks on the media, freedom of expression and movement, excessive use of force by the security forces, and the need to discharge minors from the Maoist People's Liberation Army. We will continue to engage with the government of Nepal both bilaterally and in conjunction with the EU, other international partners, and the Office of the High Commissioner on human rights to urge it to meet the commitments they have made to uphold and promote human rights. Our Embassy is also supporting the efforts of civil society to combat impunity, through advocacy, training and work on legislative reform.

North Korea: Capital Punishment

John Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what reports he has received of the number of people who received the death penalty in North Korea in each of the last five years. [265465]

Bill Rammell: We are concerned about the use of the death penalty in North Korea, including the reports of public executions. There are, however, no reliable figures available for the numbers of executions in North Korea. Different non-governmental organisations produce various figures based on the observations of defectors, but these are difficult to verify and often out of date.

North Korea: Political Prisoners

John Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what reports he has received of the number of political prisoners in North Korea. [265466]

Bill Rammell: While there is no doubt that North Korea imprisons large numbers of people for their political and religious beliefs, there are no reliable figures available for the number of political prisoners in North Korea. Different non-governmental organisations produce various figures based on the observations of defectors, but these are difficult to verify, and often out of date. That is why we have consistently pressed North Korea to allow the UN Special Rapporteur on human rights to the Democratic Peoples Republic of Korea access to their country.

Palestinians: Fisheries

Mr. Andrew Turner: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent reports he has received on access by Gazan fishermen to *(a)* Gazan and *(b)* international waters. [264497]

Bill Rammell: Gazan fishermen are prevented by the Israeli navy from entering international waters. The Israeli navy also severely limits their access to Gaza's own territorial waters. We believe that the current limit is enforced at around three miles from the shore.

Many Gazan fishing boats were also destroyed or damaged during Operation Cast Lead. The Israeli authorities say that they are enforcing these limits to prevent the smuggling of weapons into Gaza.

Palestinians: Postal Services

Mr. Andrew Turner: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what restrictions there are on *(a)* mail and *(b)* gifts being sent from the UK to people in (i) the West Bank and (ii) Gaza. [264761]

Bill Rammell: There are no restrictions specific to mail or gifts originating in the UK. Incoming mail destined for the Occupied Palestinian Territories must be routed via Israel. It will be subject to security checks. Foreign and Commonwealth Office staff, living in Gaza and the West Bank report that it will take small envelopes several weeks to arrive from an international address. Some of this period of time may also be accounted for by the inefficiency of the Palestinian Authority's own mail service.

For parcels sent to the West Bank, the security checking process can last up to two months and many West Bankers now arrange for larger mail items to be sent to addresses in east Jerusalem and then delivered on by friends or relatives. Parcels destined for Gaza can be held up for several months and few individuals or organisations inside Gaza would now use this as a means to send items into the Gaza strip.

Philippines: Politics and Government

Mr. Gregory Campbell: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will have discussions with the Government of the Philippines on the implications for the political situation in that country of the kidnapping of the members of the International Committee of the Red Cross. [265785]

Bill Rammell: We are aware that on 15 January 2009 three members of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), including two foreign nationals, were kidnapped on the island of Sulu in the southern Philippines. The terrorist group Abu Sayyaf claims to be holding them captive. Our embassy in Manila has been following the case closely. We welcome reports by the ICRC that one of the hostages has been released and we hope the two remaining members will be freed unharmed.

We are concerned about on-going terrorist and insurgent activity in the southern Philippines. Our ambassador in Manila regularly discusses the conflict in the southern Philippines, including wider political implications, with the Philippines Government. The UK has been sharing its experience from the Northern Ireland Peace Process with the Philippines Government to help the Government in its efforts towards achieving peace in Mindanao.

Ron Arad

Dr. Ladyman: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what discussions HM Ambassador in Tehran has had with the Iranian Government on the missing Israeli pilot, Ron Arad. [265653]

Bill Rammell: Our ambassador in Tehran has not had any discussions with the Iranian Government regarding the missing Israeli pilot, Ron Arad. However, my right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary discussed Mr. Arad's disappearance in January 2000 with the Iranian Foreign Minister. The Iranian Minister assured him that although he had no information concerning Mr. Arad, he would pass on any information he might obtain. Officials in our embassies in Beirut and Damascus have also sought information on Mr. Arad's case; most recently with the Lebanese Government in February 2004.

Seoul

Mr. Heathcoat-Amory: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many visits were made by Ministers to Seoul in the financial year 2007-08. [264571]

Bill Rammell: There were two visits to Seoul by Government Ministers in financial year 2007-08. These visits were by the then Minister of State for Higher Education, Further Education, and Lifelong Learning, at the Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills (Bill Rammell), in May 2007, and the then Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform (Mr. Hutton) in November 2007.

Sri Lanka: Human Rights

Mr. Duncan Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent assessment he has made of the human rights situation in Sri Lanka. [264787]

Bill Rammell: The UK has recently made clear our concerns about the deteriorating human right situation in Sri Lanka during the ongoing UN Human Rights Council session in Geneva. The continuing reports of abductions, disappearances, violence and intimidation against the media are of particular concern. Violations must be investigated thoroughly and independently and those responsible must be brought to justice.

On 23 February 2009, the EU released a statement calling on the Sri Lankan authorities to take decisive action to tackle human rights abuses, to guarantee press freedom and to disarm paramilitary groups in government controlled areas. We continue to raise human rights concerns with the Sri Lankan authorities whenever possible.

Sri Lanka: Politics and Government

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent discussions he has had with the government of Sri Lanka on the political situation in that country. [264123]

Bill Rammell *[holding answer 19 March 2009]:* I refer my hon. Friend to my response of 5 March 2009, *Official Report*, column 1750W.

We are in regular contact with the Government of Sri Lanka. Most recently my noble friend Lord Malloch-Brown, the Minister for Africa, Asia and the UN, spoke to the Sri Lankan Minister for Foreign Affairs on 16 March 2009 about the political and humanitarian situation. We remain of the view that a political solution that addresses the legitimate concerns of all communities in Sri Lanka is the only way to bring a sustainable end to the conflict.

Sudan: Peacekeeping Operations

Mr. Vara: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what discussions he has had with *(a)* Ministerial colleagues and *(b)* overseas counterparts on the viability of implementing a no-fly zone for Darfur. [263545]

Gillian Merron: We currently assess that a no-fly zone would restrict essential humanitarian operations and be a major logistical challenge due to the size of Darfur and the lack of available air assets. The African Union-UN Mission in Darfur (UNAMID) is mandated to monitor military activity, including flights prohibited by UN Security Council Resolution 1591. To this end, we continue to press all parties for rapid, full deployment of UNAMID, and work with the UN and any potential donors to ensure UNAMID receives the equipment it so urgently requires.

Sudan: Politics and Government

Mr. Vara: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent assessment he has made of the political situation in Darfur. [263547]

Gillian Merron: We remain committed to both the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA) and Darfur Peace Process. We welcomed the initial agreement between the Government of Sudan and the justice and equality movement signed in Doha on 17 February 2009, and encouraged UN/African Union mediator Bassole and Qatar to continue efforts. We urge implementation of the initial agreement, talks on a cessation of hostilities and a lasting settlement, and the engagement also of other Darfur leaders.

Full implementation of CPA is essential for lasting peace throughout Sudan and we will continue to work with the governments in Khartoum and Juba for that.

My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary made a statement on 4 March 2009 in which he strongly urged all parties in Sudan to avoid escalation, maintain order and protect embassies, international personnel and humanitarian workers, and above all the Sudanese civilians who have already suffered so much.

The statement is available for viewing at:

http://www.fco.gov.uk/en/newsroom/latest-news/?view=PressS&id=14479209

Mr. Lidington: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent representations he has made to the government of Sudan to encourage it to reverse its decision to eject non-governmental organisations. [263624]

Gillian Merron *[holding answer 13 March 2009]*: Our Ambassador has urged the Government of Sudan to allow non-governmental organisations (NGOs) to continue their work. The EU issued a statement on 10 March 2009 calling upon the Government of Sudan to urgently reconsider their decision, and ensure that humanitarian assistance to the most vulnerable people in Sudan be continuously guaranteed. European foreign Ministers discussed the situation again on 16 March 2009 and reiterated this message. We have, through official and ministerial level contacts, urged China, Russia, and Sudan's African and Arab neighbours to press the Government of Sudan to reverse their decision.

To date, there has been no indication that the Government of Sudan will reverse their decision and allow the 13 NGOs to remain in Sudan.

Terrorism: Finance

Mr. Paul Goodman: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the answer of 3 March 2009, *Official Report*, column 1415W, on terrorism: finance, how much of the £80 million allocated to his Department and the £6 million allocated to the British Council for tackling terrorism and promoting understanding overseas for the period 2008-09 to 2010-11 is new funding. [264600]

Bill Rammell: All of the £80 million and £6 million allocated to the Foreign and Commonwealth Office and British Council respectively in the 2008-11 comprehensive spending review was new funding.

Thailand: Demonstrations

Mr. Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many complaints were made to his Department on the conduct of the British Embassy in Thailand during the closure of Bangkok Airport in December 2008. [258037]

Bill Rammell *[holding answer 2 March 2009]*: An estimated 6,000 British nationals had their travel plans disrupted during the closure of Bangkok's two main airports by People's Alliance for Democracy demonstrators last year. Our consular team in Bangkok spoke to about 400 callers per day during this period, visited Bangkok hotels and made contact with British nationals. We received one complaint through the Foreign and Commonwealth Office's formal complaints procedure about the Government's response to the airport closure. Separately we have received approximately 50 letters and emails from members of the public and 15 letters from MPs whose constituents were unhappy with the assistance provided by the Government.

Treaty of Lisbon

Mr. Ancram: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent discussions he has had with his EU counterparts on *(a)* completion of the Treaty of Lisbon ratification process and *(b)* implementation of the Treaty of Lisbon by EU member states. [265392]

Caroline Flint: At the December 2008 European Council, a way forward was agreed on the Lisbon treaty on the basis of proposals from the Irish Government. My right hon. Friend the Prime Minister made a statement on the European Council to Parliament on 15 December 2008, *Official Report*, column 813.

There have been no formal discussions at EU level since December. Foreign and Commonwealth Office Ministers regularly meet their EU counterparts to discuss a range of issues including the Treaty of Lisbon.

The Irish Government gave an update on their progress at the Spring European Council on 19-20 March 2009.

UN Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance

Mr. Lidington: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs when the UK plans to *(a)* sign and *(b)* ratify the UN convention on enforced disappearances; and if he will make a statement. [263171]

Gillian Merron: The Government are currently examining the potential impact of the UN Convention against enforced disappearance on the law of the UK. In particular, lawyers are analysing the extent to which common law provisions may need to be replicated in statute law, and the introduction of one or more specific criminal offences.

If the Government decide to ratify the convention, these changes to the law would require primary legislation, which would be introduced when parliamentary time allowed. Decisions would also need to be taken in due course on whether the UK required any reservations or declarations upon ratification. These are complex issues requiring further consideration and analysis which will take some time to complete.

UN World Conference against Racism

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will make it his policy to withdraw from the UN Durban 2 anti-racism conference; what recent discussions he has had with *(a)* EU member states, *(b)* the US administration and *(c)* the government of Israel on this issue; what recent representations he has received (i) supporting and (ii) opposing a withdrawal from the conference; and if he will make a statement. [263262]

Bill Rammell: The UK is still engaged in the Durban Review process and we will keep our position under review. We hope that there is still time to return the focus of preparations to reviewing work undertaken to combat racism and implement the 2001 Durban Declaration and Programme of Action, thus enhancing the prospect of a consensus outcome. But a change in this direction will be required for any outcome document to gain our support.

We have, on several occasions, expressed our view on the Durban Review Conference: we want the conference to forge a collective will to fight against racism in all its forms, in all countries in the world. The Government remain deeply concerned about the draft outcome document.

Ministers and officials have had regular discussions with EU partners and the US administration on the Durban Review Conference. I discussed it with the Israeli ambassador when he called on me on 11 March 2009.

We have received numerous representations both urging us to remain engaged in the process to strengthen the concluding document, and also expressing concern about the direction it has taken.

Uzbekistan: Sanctions

John Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment he has made of the efficacy of EU sanctions on Uzbekistan. [265368]

Caroline Flint: The UK has consistently argued that sanctions have been an important factor in bringing about positive, albeit limited, progress in the human rights situation in Uzbekistan.

While serious concerns persist about the overall human rights situation, recent developments include:

the release of five human rights defenders, including Mutabar Tojibayeva, the most egregious of the Uzbek human rights cases of concern to the EU;

the resumption of prison visits by the International Committee of the Red Cross;

the entry into force of the abolition of the death penalty, and the introduction of a limited form of habeas corpus.

Uzbekistan: Visas

John Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many Uzbekistan *(a)* officials and *(b)* politicians are subject to the EU visa ban. [265370]

Caroline Flint: None. The EU visa ban was lifted at the October 2008 General Affairs and External Relations Council.

Zimbabwe: Politics and Government

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent discussions he has had with governments in the region on the political situation in Zimbabwe. [264124]

Gillian Merron *[holding answer 19 March 2009]*: My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary discussed Zimbabwe with Dlamini-Zuma, his South African counterpart, in a telephonic conversation on 9 and 16 February 2009, and at a meeting on 6 March 2009. My noble Friend, Lord Malloch-Brown, the Minister for Africa, Asia and the UN, regularly speaks with representatives of southern African governments about Zimbabwe, a number of whom he met on 16 March 2009.

NORTHERN IRELAND

Departmental Bank Services

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland with which banks his Department has or has had contracts for the provision of financial advice, for the financial year 2008-09. [262753]

Paul Goggins: The Northern Ireland Office (excluding its agencies and Executive NDPBs) does not have contracts with any banks for the provision of financial advice.

The main banking services which the Department use are part of a Northern Ireland civil service wide contract which is managed by the Department of Finance and Personnel in Northern Ireland.

Departmental Catering

Mr. Scott: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland which *(a)* food and *(b)* drinks companies have supplied his Department in each of the last three years; and how much was paid to each of those suppliers in each of those years. [248794]

Paul Goggins: The Northern Ireland Office (NIO) records expenditure for food and drink under the description of either hospitality or catering. These expenditure types are also used to record spending on related services and equipment and as a consequence, some of the suppliers used may not be termed as food or drink companies. Due to the high volume of transactions within these expenditure areas, it would only be possible to extract the food and drink companies at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Plants

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how much his Department has spent on *(a)* pot plants and *(b)* cut flowers in each of the last three years. [256119]

Paul Goggins: The Northern Ireland Office (NIO) does not record expenditure under these headings. However, the following table shows the total costs paid to florists and nurseries in the last three financial years (excluding agencies and Executive NDPBs):

Financial Year	*Expenditure (£)*
2005-06	26,892
2006-07	25,755
2007-08	28,412

Flowers and pot plants are generally purchased as decoration when the NIO hosts official events such as receptions, for example for military personnel returning and ceremonies such as Royal garden parties honouring community and civic leaders. Where possible, the Department will make use of these items at more than one event.

These figures also include flowers purchased for events which are held in Hillsborough castle on behalf of other parties. Although the NIO does not charge these external customers directly for the cost of flowers, an administration charge is levied to cover sundry costs.

Drugs: Crime

Mr. Gregory Campbell: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many people in Northern Ireland were convicted of offences relating to the possession of drugs in *(a)* 1998 and *(b)* 2008. [265607]

Paul Goggins: Conviction data for 2008 are not available; 2006 is the latest available year. With regards to offences relating to the possession of drugs, there were 411 persons convicted in 1998 and 572 persons convicted in 2006.

Data are collated on the principal offence rule: only the most serious offence with which an offender is charged is included.

Northern Ireland Compensation Agency

Sammy Wilson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many compensation applications were *(a)* rejected and *(b)* accepted by the Northern Ireland Compensation Agency in each of the last five years. [264746]

Paul Goggins: The following table shows the claims rejected and accepted in each of the last five years.

	2004-05	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*	*2008-09*	*Total*
Rejected	9,437	7,470	4,963	4,441	4,007	30,318
Accepted	5,754	4,877	3,235	2,517	2,072	18,455
Total	15,191	12,347	8,198	6,958	6,079	48,773

Notes:

1. 2008-09 figures are up to end of February 2009.
2. The figures for accepted and rejected claims each year includes claims in the system carried forward from previous years.

Northern Ireland Prison Service: Manpower

Sammy Wilson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many people were employed in each job category by the Northern Ireland Prison Service in each of the last five years. [264743]

Paul Goggins: The number of people employed in each job category by the Northern Ireland Prison Service in each of the last five years, filling the post at each rank or grade substantively, is as shown in the following table.

	Year ending 31 March				
Job category	*2004-05*[1]	*2005-06*[1]	*2006-07*[1]	*2007-08*	*As at 18 March 2009*
Director	1	1	1	1	1
Deputy Director	4	4	4	4	3
Non ex. Director	1	2	2	2	4
Governor 1	2	2	2	2	2
Governor 2	4	4	4	4	4
Governor 3	2	2	3	3	3
Governor 4	8	9	12	12	10
Governor 5	18	19	14	20	19
Principal Officer	72	67	63	58	65
Senior Officer	171	166	166	159	146
Main Grade Officer	1,268	1,260	1,229	1,176	1,132
Operational Support Grade	0	0	0	17	114
Night Custody/Patrol Officer	83	139	159	184	190
Senior Prisoner Custody Officer	0	0	7	6	15
Prisoner Custody Officer	0	0	93	149	174
Grade A	22	20	19	20	21
Grade B1	30	33	32	35	39
Grade B2	51	53	56	51	64
Grade C	79	81	79	80	101
Grade D1	107	108	117	118	130
Grade D2	57	59	42	43	37
Civilian Support Staff	95	88	87	86	70
Total	2,075	2,117	2,191	2,230	2,344

[1] These figures reflect the full-time equivalent staff. Actual staff in post figures are only available from 2007 onwards.

WOMEN AND EQUALITY

Equal Opportunities

Mr. Crabb: To ask the Minister for Women and Equality how many people the Government Equalities Office estimates are subject to intersectional multiple discrimination in the workplace without a remedy in law. [265609]

The Solicitor-General: I have been asked to reply.

Data on the number of people in the UK who are subject to intersectional multiple discrimination in the workplace but are without a remedy in law are not collected because it is not currently possible for people to bring such claims.

In estimating the number of people subject to intersectional multiple discrimination, but who are without a remedy in law, GEO has drawn on international comparisons. Over the last three years, an average of 7.5 per cent. of the number of cases per year brought to the Irish Equality Tribunals included claims on multiple (additive) grounds. This figure could include intersectional claims but these are not separately identified.

LEADER OF THE HOUSE

Members: Pensions

Mr. Frank Field: To ask the Leader of the House pursuant to the answer of 16 March 2009, *Official Report*, column 966W, on Members: pensions, how much stock owned by the Parliamentary Contributory Pension Fund and held in pooled funds has been lent in each of the last two years; and what the monetary value of the stock was when it was *(a)* lent and *(b)* returned. [265841]

Chris Bryant: As I stated in the answer of 16 March 2009, *Official Report*, column 966W, stock lending is not allowed in the segregated funds of the Parliamentary Contributory Pension Fund (PCPF). The Trustees have no role in deciding the policy on stock lending in pooled funds used by the PCPF.

Stock lending by investment managers of pooled funds is intended to enhance the returns to their clients. Within a pooled fund no specific stocks are either owned by, or clearly attributable to, a single investor. Thus, the (PCPF) has a proportionate share in the value of the total stock within one or more equity-based funds.

At 31 December 2007 and 31 December 2008 the PCPF had pooled assets on loan to the value of some £31 million and £19 million, respectively, representing some 8 per cent. and 6 per cent. of the total value of the Fund on these dates.

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Animal Welfare

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps the Government have taken to ensure the welfare of animals held in quarantine facilities in the last 12 months. [261472]

Jane Kennedy *[holding answer 10 March 2009]*: The welfare of animals held in quarantine is protected by the Animal Welfare Act 2006, which makes it an offence to cause unnecessary suffering to any animal. The Act also contains a Duty of Care to animals—this means that anyone responsible for an animal must take reasonable steps to make sure the animal's needs are met.

These include the need for a suitable environment; for a suitable diet; to exhibit normal behaviour patterns; to be housed with, or apart from, other animals (if applicable), and to be protected from pain, injury, suffering and disease.

Every approved quarantine premises must have a veterinary presence six days a week. It is the Veterinary Superintendent's responsibility to monitor the welfare of animals in quarantine and take any necessary action to prevent suffering.

Animal Welfare: EU Law

Mr. Carmichael: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent discussions his Department has had with the European Commission on the revision of EC Regulation 1/2005 on animal welfare in transport. [263233]

Jane Kennedy: While we have yet to enter into formal discussions with the European Commission on the review of EC Regulation 1/2005 on the welfare of animals during transport, as it has yet to publish formal proposals, we have responded to early opportunities presented by the Commission to comment on a draft options paper. The UK provided a set of generic principles which was drawn up in close consultation with the Office of the Chief Veterinary Officer in Wales, the Scottish Government Rural Directorate and the Department for Agriculture and Rural Development Northern Ireland. We fully support the Commission's initiative to review key elements of the Regulation and welcomed the opportunity in the early stages of the review process to express our opinion on the Commission's policy options.

Mr. Carmichael: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment he has made of the likely effect of the proposed revision of EC Regulation 1/2005 on animal welfare in transport on livestock transportation in the Highlands and Islands. [263234]

Jane Kennedy: The European Commission has yet to publish its formal proposals for the review of EC Regulation 1/2005 on the welfare of animals during transport. We are working closely with the Scottish Government Rural Directorate to prepare for the review. Its input will be central to establishing the likely effects of the review of the Regulation on livestock transportation in the Highlands and Islands.

Bovine Tuberculosis

Mr. Paice: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much his Department plans to allocate for measures to tackle bovine tuberculosis in the next three years. [263811]

Jane Kennedy: The following table sets out the budget which has been allocated by DEFRA for expenditure on bovine tuberculosis in 2009-10. No allocation has yet been made for 2010-11 onwards and as such we are unable to provide any estimates.

Breakdown of bovine tuberculosis forecast expenditure for 2009-10

	£ million (forecast only)
Cattle testing	37.8
Compensation	23
Surveillance activity by the Veterinary Laboratories Agency (VLA)	6.7

Breakdown of bovine tuberculosis forecast expenditure for 2009-10

	£ million (forecast only)
Other research	8.4
HQ/overheads	1.8
Total	77.7

Notes:
1. 2009-10 figures are provisional and subject to change
2. Data sourced from DEFRA Oracle financial system
3. Cattle testing—the cost of carrying out the testing of cattle for tuberculosis by arranging, assessing and monitoring tests, conducting investigations of incident herds and diagnostic testing by Local Veterinary Inspectors on behalf of DEFRA. (NB This expenditure is funded by DEFRA for the UK)
4. Compensation—includes payments for 'reactors' and 'contact animals' which are compulsorily slaughtered. This includes 'salvage' money received by the Government for those carcasses which are permitted to go into the food chain or are eligible for Over Thirty Month Scheme payments. (NB This funding is for England only)
5. Surveillance activity by the VLA—includes all DEFRA funded work carried out by the VLA relating to tuberculosis in cattle and badgers including the supply of tuberculin. (NB This expenditure is funded by DEFRA for the UK)
6. HQ/overheads—includes staff costs for veterinary advice and administration of tuberculosis policy in England only.

Central Heating

Mr. Willis: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) what assessment he has made of the likely effect on UK oil-fired central heating boiler manufacturers of implementation of the proposed Energy Using Products Directive in 2013; [263866]

(2) if he will make it his policy to seek amendments to the proposed Energy Using Products Directive to ensure that the UK boiler industry is able to meet the Directive's emission requirements. [263867]

Jane Kennedy *[holding answer 16 March 2009]:* The Government recognises that the nitrogen oxides emission levels proposed in the commission's draft implementing measures on boilers and water heaters are challenging for the industry to achieve. DEFRA officials are working together with industry representatives to understand the impact on UK oil-fired boiler manufacturers and to determine a level to propose to the commission that is achievable for the industry.

Compost

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many in-vessel composting facilities are operating in each local authority area. [263088]

Jane Kennedy: The following table indicates the number of in-vessel and windrow composting sites that are licensed in each district in each Environment Agency region. Where there are n/a entries, this indicates that the site is currently in the process of surrendering its permit.

Prior to standard permits being introduced, the Environment Agency's permit recording system did not distinguish between in-vessel and windrow composting and it would therefore incur disproportionate cost to collate figures for in-vessel alone.

Agency area	*District*	*Total*
Anglian: Central Area	Aylesbury Vale	1
	Bedford	2
	Breckland	1
	East Cambridgeshire	1
	Forest Heath	1
	Huntingdonshire	3
	King's Lynn and West Norfolk	1
	Milton Keynes	1
	South Bedfordshire	2
	South Cambridgeshire	1
	South Northamptonshire	1
	St. Edmundsbury	2
	n/a	3
Anglian: Central Area total		20
Anglian: Eastern Area	Basildon	1
	Broadland	2
	Chelmsford	1
	Colchester	1
	Ipswich	1
	Maldon	1
	North Norfolk	1
	Rochford	1
	South Norfolk	2
	Suffolk Coastal	2
	Waveney	1
	n/a	1
Anglian: Eastern Area total		15
Anglian: Northern Area	Daventry	3
	East Lindsey	1
	East Northamptonshire	1
	Harborough	1
	North East Lincolnshire	1
	North Lincolnshire	2
	Peterborough	1
	South Holland	2
	South Kesteven	2
	Wellingborough	1
	West Lindsey	1
Anglian: Northern Area total		16
Midlands: Lower Severn	Bridgnorth	1
	Forest of Dean	2
	North Shropshire	1
	Powys	1

Agency area	*District*	*Total*
	Shrewsbury and Atcham	1
	Stroud	2
	Telford and Wrekin	1
	n/a	1
Midlands: Lower Severn total		10
Midlands: Lower Trent	Doncaster	2
	Erewash	1
	Newark and Sherwood	1
	North Kesteven	2
	North Lincolnshire	1
	North West Leicestershire	1
	Rotherham	1
	Rushcliffe	1
	South Derbyshire	2
	n/a	1
Midlands: Lower Trent total		13
Midlands: Upper Trent	Birmingham	3
	Derbyshire Dales	1
	Hinckley and Bosworth	1
	Lichfield	1
	Newcastle-under-Lyme	1
	North Warwickshire	1
	Rugby	1
	Solihull	1
	South Staffordshire	3
	Stafford	3
	Stratford-on-Avon	1
Midlands: Upper Trent total		17
North East: Dales	East Riding of Yorkshire	2
	Leeds	1
	Richmondshire	1
	Scarborough	1
	Sedgefield	1
	Stockton-on-Tees	1
North East: Dales total		7
North East: Northumbria	Durham	1
	Newcastle upon Tyne	1
	South Tyneside	1
	Tynedale	1
	Wansbeck	2
	n/a	3
North East: Northumbria total		9
North East: Ridings	Calderdale	1
	East Riding of Yorkshire	1
	Leeds	1
	Sheffield	1
	Wakefield	1
North East: Ridings total		5
North West: Central	Knowsley	1
	Preston	2
	Sefton	2
	South Ribble	1
North West: Central total		6
North West: Northern	Carlisle	2
	Eden	1
North West: Northern total		3
North West: Southern	Chester	2
	Congleton	2
	Crewe and Nantwich	2
	Halton	1
	Knowsley	2
	Manchester	2
	St. Helens	1
	Vale Royal	1
North West: Southern total		13
South West: Cornwall	North Cornwall	1
	Penwith	1
South West: Cornwall total		2
South West: Devon	East Devon	1
	Mid Devon	1
	South Hams	1
	Teignbridge	1
	Torridge	1
	n/a	1
South West: Devon total		6
South West: North Wessex	Bath and North East Somerset	1
	North Wiltshire	1
	Sedgemoor	1
	South Somerset	1
	n/a	1
South West: North Wessex total		5
South West: South Wessex	Bournemouth	1
	Christchurch	1
	North Dorset	1
	Weymouth and Portland	1
	n/a	1
South West: South Wessex total		5

Agency area	*District*	*Total*
Southern: Hampshire and Isle of Wight	Arun	1
	Basingstoke and Deane	4
	Chichester	2
	Fareham	1
	Havant	1
	Isle of Wight	2
	Mid Sussex	1
	Salisbury	1
	Test Valley	1
	n/a	2
Southern: Hampshire and Isle of Wight total		16
Southern: Kent	Canterbury	1
	Lewes	1
	Sevenoaks	2
	Shepway	1
	Swale	2
	Tonbridge and Malling	1
	Wealden	1
Southern: Kent total		9
Southern: Sussex	n/a	1
Southern: Sussex total		1
Thames: North East	Brentwood	1
	Enfield	1
	Epping Forest	1
	Havering	1
	Hertsmere	1
	Hillingdon	3
	Newham	1
	North Hertfordshire	2
	St. Albans	1
	n/a	3
Thames: North East total		15
Thames: South East	Bracknell Forest	1
	Croydon	1
	n/a	3
Thames: South East total		5
Thames: West	Cherwell	1
	Cotswold	2
	South Oxfordshire	1
	Vale of White Horse	1
	West Berkshire	1
	West Oxfordshire	1
	Wycombe	2
Thames: West total		9
Wales: Buckley	Gwynedd	2
	Isle of Anglesey	1
	n/a	1
Wales: Buckley total		4
Wales: Cardiff	Cardiff	1
	Herefordshire, County of	1
	Monmouthshire	1
	n/a	1
Wales: Cardiff total		4
Wales: Swansea	Carmarthenshire	2
Wales: Swansea total		2

Mr. Roger Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent discussions he has had with local authorities on the incorporation of composting into their household waste management strategies; and if he will make a statement. [263907]

Jane Kennedy: The Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs has not had any recent discussions with local authorities on the incorporation of composting into their household waste management strategies.

Composting is one approach for diverting biodegradable material from landfill and local authorities already consider this as part of their management of household waste. This contributes to the good progress being made towards the target set in England's Waste Strategy 2007 to recycle or compost 50 per cent. of household waste by 2020, with annual figures up to the first quarter of 2008-09 showing 35 per cent. of household waste being recycled or composted.

Departmental Manpower

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many members of staff in his Department *(a)* are employed to deal with matters relating to animal welfare and *(b)* deal with animal-related matters as part of their remit. [256589]

Jane Kennedy: The equivalent of approximately 97 members of staff are employed to deal with animal welfare, while a total of approximately 2,084 deal with a variety of animal related matters as part of their wider remit.

Floods

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs when he expects the Cabinet sub-committee on floods to meet. [256543]

Mr. Watson: I have been asked to reply.

The Government published a detailed response to Sir Michael Pitt's recommendations in December, and on this point, said that the new Committee would hold its inaugural meeting in the new year. Good progress is being made on the recommendations of the Pitt Review, and the Government will publish a progress update in the summer.

It is established practice that information relating to the proceedings of Cabinet Committees, including exactly when they are to meet, is not disclosed.

Floods: Property Development

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what factors the Environment Agency takes into account in deciding whether to waive restrictions on building in flood risk areas; and if he will make a statement. [264361]

Huw Irranca-Davies: The Environment Agency has no powers to waive restrictions on buildings in flood risk areas. As a consultee, it provides advice on the flood risk implications of development proposals. The Environment Agency's advice is intended to ensure that new development will be safe from flooding, does not increase flood risk elsewhere and takes into account climate change. This is in line with Planning Policy Statement 25—Development and Flood Risk.

Food Supply

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what tonnage of food is stored in the UK. [263580]

Jane Kennedy: DEFRA does not hold information on the total food held in the country.

Food: Packaging

Mr. Roger Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what the *(a)* average cost per local authority and *(b)* total cost of disposing of supermarket food packaging was in each region in each of the last three years; and if he will make a statement. [263904]

Jane Kennedy: Neither DEFRA nor the Waste Resources Action Programmes holds this information.

Incinerators: Hazardous Substances

Mr. Andrew Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs whether incinerator operators are required to test incinerator bottom ash for H14 ecotoxicity; and if he will make a statement. [263742]

Jane Kennedy *[holding answer 18 March 2009]:* Incinerator operators are required to test and assess their bottom ash for all hazards including H14.

Mr. Andrew Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if he will place in the Library a copy of each submission made to the public consultation undertaken by the Environment Agency on H14 ecotoxicity testing in October 2007. [263743]

Jane Kennedy *[holding answer 18 March 2009]:* The responses to the Environment Agency's consultation on H14 ecotoxicity will be placed in the Library of the House once each consultation response has been checked for confidentiality.

Mr. Andrew Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if he will take steps to ensure that the results of the ecotoxicity testing of incinerator bottom ash are included in the Environment Agency regional registers. [263744]

Jane Kennedy *[holding answer 18 March 2009]:* Assessments for hazardous waste by waste producers are not submitted to the Environment Agency. There is no legislative requirement for producers to do this and hence no inclusion on registers.

Metals: Recycling

Mr. Roger Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if he or a Minister from his Department will meet a delegation representing the British metals recycling industry to discuss the review of waste exemptions from environmental permitting. [264083]

Jane Kennedy *[holding answer 16 March 2009]:* I have recently responded to a letter from the British Metals Recycling Association agreeing to meet them to discuss a range of issues affecting the metal recycling sector.

Patagial Tagging

Mr. Morley: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs when he expects legislation amending the Veterinary Surgeons Act 1966 to allow the fitting of patagial tags by non-veterinarians to come into force. [262901]

Jane Kennedy: DEFRA is in the final stages of producing an exemption order under the Veterinary Surgeons Act 1966 to permit non-veterinarians to wing and web tag non-farmed birds for conservation and research purposes. We hope that the new legislation will be in force within the next couple of months.

Pigs

Mr. Roger Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent discussions he has had with representatives of the pig industry on Government assistance for that sector; and if he will make a statement. [263909]

Jane Kennedy: As Minister for Farming and the Environment I have met representatives of the pig industry and producers on a number of occasions to discuss what the Government can do to help the industry achieve profitability and long-term economic sustainability.

It is clear from my discussions that it is most important that all segments of the pig meat supply chain should come together in a spirit of co-operation to jointly address a number of issues that have a significant impact on the economic health of the pig industry.

These include public sector procurement policy; country of origin labelling and the burden of environmental regulations.

In response I have therefore set up the Pig Meat Supply Chain Task Force which brings together for the first time producers, processors, retailers, consumer groups and the Government. The first meeting of the task force took place on 18 March when a work programme of outcomes and targets will be agreed. The work will be remitted to sub-groups of co-opted experts who will urgently take the work forward to completion by the end of the task force's planned lifetime.

Plastics: Recycling

Judy Mallaber: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps his Department is taking to encourage the reprocessing of plastic waste in the UK. [261342]

Jane Kennedy: The DEFRA-funded Waste and Resources Action Programme (WRAP) works to develop new markets for waste in the UK. WRAP has supported several companies, through a range of financial and technical assistance mechanisms, in developing new and existing plastic recycling businesses.

Since its creation, WRAP has provided over £3.1 million in capital grants to plastics recycling businesses. In the next five years, these will divert a total of over 270,000 tonnes of plastic waste from landfill.

Plastic bottle recycling has significantly expanded in recent years, with around 132,000 tonnes of plastic bottles collected and recycled from UK households in 2006. WRAP'S focus has therefore moved on to mixed plastics (plastic packaging other than plastic bottles).

WRAP has undertaken trials with a number of technologies, with the aim of understanding the best ways to handle mixed plastics from an environmental, economical and technological perspective. The programme has investigated three main areas: collection, reprocessing, and end markets. The trials showed clearly that it is economically viable to recycle the vast majority of the mixed plastics we currently send to landfill, and there are clear environmental gains in doing so. WRAP is now working with councils and industry partners to deliver mixed plastics reprocessing in the UK.

Recycling: North West

Andrew Stunell: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much waste was recycled *(a)* in total and *(b)* on average per head of population by each local authority in the North West in each of the last five years. [264325]

Jane Kennedy: The following table shows the available local authority level data for household recycling tonnages and the amount of household waste recycled per person for each local authority in the North West of England for the last three financial years. The data for 2003-04 and 2004-05 are either incomplete or unreliable at local authority level.

	Household recycling and composting (tonnes)			*Household recycling and composting (kg per person)*		
Authority	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*
Allerdale Borough Council	13,656	14,227	15,619	143.29	147.74	165.63
Barrow-in-Furness Borough Council	6,025	5,790	6,703	85.46	82.59	93.35
Blackburn with Darwen Borough Council	16,483	18,328	20,833	117.57	130.73	147.54
Blackpool Borough Council	19,050	22,567	22,970	133.50	157.92	160.97
Bolton MBC	25,793	31,751	33,572	97.40	119.63	127.94
Burnley Borough Council	9,061	10,151	10,445	102.85	115.74	118.69
Bury MBC	16,531	18,466	20,550	90.78	100.63	112.35
Carlisle City Council	14,043	16,282	22,405	135.68	154.77	216.89
Chester City Council	14,362	15,543	16,095	120.69	131.05	134.46
Chorley Borough Council	15,650	18,224	19,455	151.94	175.74	187.61
Congleton Borough Council	14,370	16,000	18,938	156.54	174.29	204.96
Copeland Borough Council	9,535	9,693	10,490	135.06	135.57	149.22
Crewe and Nantwich Borough Council	11,540	15,220	16,775	101.77	133.98	144.86
Eden District Council	9,021	10,487	11,059	173.47	198.61	213.91
Ellesmere Port and Neston Borough Council	11,793	15,425	16,134	145.77	191.37	197.23
Fylde Borough Council	11,793	12,562	13,233	155.58	164.42	174.80
Halton Borough Council	15,235	16,538	17,545	128.14	139.21	146.82
Hyndburn Borough Council	6,747	8,251	8,769	82.69	101.11	106.67
Knowsley MBC	8,443	10,704	11,909	56.36	71.65	78.71
Lancaster City Council	9,055	13,253	16,390	66.24	96.04	114.62
Liverpool City Council	20,348	24,223	41,994	45.78	54.13	96.30
Macclesfield Borough Council	15,305	26,016	30,475	101.76	172.86	202.35
Manchester City Council MBC	34,419	37,021	42,423	78.76	83.91	93.86
Oldham MBC	10,065	13,001	16,292	46.11	59.31	74.19
Pendle Borough Council	9,872	10,856	11,527	110.55	121.57	127.93
Preston City Council	13,012	14,925	15,683	99.33	113.67	118.83
Ribble Valley Borough Council	4,053	4,909	5,744	71.60	86.27	99.38
Rochdale MBC	9,256	14,053	17,880	44.82	68.09	86.59

Authority	Household recycling and composting (tonnes)			Household recycling and composting (kg per person)		
	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08
Rossendale Borough Council	5,896	6,988	8,293	89.47	105.88	124.34
Salford City Council MBC	12,768	18,261	22,568	59.00	84.38	103.52
Sefton MBC	22,184	26,272	31,650	78.72	93.53	114.10
South Lakeland District Council	11,527	16,416	20,037	112.02	159.54	191.19
South Ribble Borough Council	13,746	18,157	18,582	130.29	171.61	174.65
St. Helens MBC	14,982	17,218	20,071	84.79	97.66	113.01
Stockport MBC	37,853	37,217	39,748	134.13	132.16	141.65
Tameside MBC	12,395	20,259	22,408	58.00	94.62	104.52
Trafford MBC	15,722	23,480	25,202	73.92	110.17	118.99
Vale Royal Borough Council	21,370	24,067	25,026	171.65	193.15	198.62
Warrington Borough Council	19,483	28,871	34,072	100.59	148.28	175.63
West Lancashire District Council	13,463	16,585	18,512	123.29	151.46	168.60
Wigan MBC	28,914	35,097	42,043	94.68	114.44	137.62
Wirral MBC	16,306	19,889	43,381	52.08	63.52	139.40
Wyre Borough Council	15,808	19,849	20,338	144.63	180.61	184.22

Source:
WasteDataFlow

Renewable Energy: Waste

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many landfill sites in each local authority area are designated as green energy plants supplying energy from waste. [263086]

Jane Kennedy: Environment Agency records indicate that there are at least 68 landfills with an identified landfill gas utilisation scheme. I am arranging for a list of these sites to be placed in the Library of the House.

Soya: Imports

Mr. Roger Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what proportion of imported soya was produced in Brazil in the latest period for which figures are available. [263908]

Jane Kennedy: According to HMRC official overseas trade statistics, in 2008, 45 per cent. of UK imports of soya were recorded as originating in Brazil. This is based on the volume of trade and includes both soya beans and soya meal. 2008 figures are provisional.

CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

Cultural Relations

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport (1) how much has been spent on the Connections through Culture programme in each of the last three years; and how much is planned to be spent on the programme in each of the next two years; [260781]

(2) what recent assessment he has made of the Connections through Culture programme; and if he will make a statement; [260782]

(3) what financial contributions have been received from other organisations for the Connections through Culture programme; [260785]

(4) what financial contributions to the Connections through Culture programme have been received from other organisations; [261451]

(5) how much his Department has spent on the Connections through Culture programme in each of the last three years; and how much he expects to spend on it in each of the next two years; [261452]

(6) what assessment he has made of the performance against objectives of the first term of the Connections through Culture programme; and if he will make a statement; [261453]

(7) what plans he has to extend the Connections through Culture programmes to further countries. [261539]

Barbara Follett: The China: UK Connections through Culture programme is a three-year programme led by the Department for Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS), the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO), the British Council, the Scottish Government and the Welsh Assembly Government. The programme has cost just under £1 million, spread equally over the last three years.

The programme runs from 2006-09 and aims to build long-lasting cultural connections. It has been hugely successful in promoting and encouraging sustainable cultural partnerships between the UK and China. A second term of Connections through Culture from 2009-12 has been agreed to ensure a lasting and tangible legacy in the run up to the Shanghai Expo and London 2012.

An independent evaluation of the first term of the programme was completed at the end of 2008. It concluded that Connections through Culture is a successful and responsive model of exchange unmatched by any overseas government agency in China and that the implementation of the programme has been exemplary.

Funding contributions in the first three-year cycle of the programme were as follows:

	£
DCMS	300,000
FCO	300,000
British Council	300,000
Scottish Government	45,000
Welsh Assembly Government	15,000

The budget for 2009-12 has not yet been agreed.

We are currently looking at options to transfer this model to India with which the UK seeks to strengthen cultural ties.

Departmental Data Protection

Anne Main: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport pursuant to the answer of 5 March 2009, *Official Report*, column 1739W, on departmental data protection, what security systems are in place to separate visitor and test wireless networks from his Department's local area network infrastructure; what policies are in place for the protection of local area network infrastructure via *(a)* firewalls and *(b)* layer three switches; who is responsible for auditing and checking these security measures; how frequently security checks are performed; and what the average time is for remediation of vulnerabilities. [265565]

Mr. Sutcliffe: There is no connection between the visitor and test wireless networks and the test wireless network does not carry any work or protectively marked traffic. No wireless network is connected to the main office network.

All wireless connections are protected by hardware firewalls and are covered as part of the regular annual audit process. Security vulnerabilities are addressed immediately they are notified.

Anne Main: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport pursuant to the answer of 5 March 2009, *Official Report*, columns 1739-40W, on departmental data protection, what systems are in place to ensure that his Department's IT security hierarchy is fit for purpose. [265566]

Mr. Sutcliffe: Our Security Operating Protocol is reviewed by external auditors on an annual basis.

Anne Main: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport pursuant to the answer of 5 March 2009, *Official Report*, column 1739W, on departmental data protection, how frequently *(a)* internal and *(b)* independent external auditing of compliance takes place; what the criteria of such audits are; what elements are checked; whether his Department undertakes social engineering pen tests; what password policies his Department has in place; and what systems are in place to ensure that staff comply with those policies. [265567]

Mr. Sutcliffe: Internal auditing of compliance takes place at least annually. Independent external auditing is carried out on an annual basis. A number of criteria are used including the GSi Code of Connection, the Security Policy Framework, industry best practice and relevant Info Sec Memoranda.

We do not report on the scope of security testing nor the full list of test criteria for security reasons.

My Department does carry out social engineering vulnerability testing.

My Department's password policies conform to central standards.

A full range of guidance on security policies and best practice is available to staff via my Department's intranet.

We are currently deploying additional training and compliance testing for all staff.

Departmental Lost Property

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport whether officials in his Department who have lost laptops that were the property of his Department in the last 12 months have been charged the full value of replacement. [266234]

Mr. Sutcliffe: No officials in my Department have lost laptops in the past 12 months.

Departmental NDPBs: Pay

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much *(a)* the Big Lottery Fund, *(b)* the Heritage Lottery Fund, *(c)* English Heritage, *(d)* Arts Council England, *(e)* UK Sport, *(f)* the Museums, Libraries and Archives Council and *(g)* Sport England spent on bonuses for their staff in each of the last three years. [258511]

Barbara Follett: We have been advised by the following organisations that spend on staff bonuses in each of the years is as follows:

Organisation	*Spend on staff bonuses (£)*
(a) Big Lottery Fund	
2005-06	197,739
2006-07	210,184
2007-08	221,665
(b) Heritage Lottery Fund	
2005-06	31,291
2006-07	35,161
2007-08	37,083
(c) English Heritage	
2005-06	253,000
2006-07	303,000
2007-08	243,000
(d) Arts Council England	
2005-06	140,371
2006-07	159,121
2007-08	280,675
(e) UK Sport	
2005-06	144,317
2006-07	160,310
2007-08	199,156
(f) The Museums, Libraries and Archives Council	
2005-06	17,578
2006-07	26,965
2007-08	57,095
(g) Sport England	
2005-06	21,222
2006-07	24,258
2007-08	0

Departmental Public Consultations

Paul Holmes: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what public consultations were undertaken by his Department in the last three years; and if he will make a statement. [264527]

Mr. Sutcliffe: Information on all public consultations undertaken by my Department is available on the DCMS website:

www.culture.gov.uk

13 such consultations were launched in 2008, 24 in 2007 and 27 in 2006. Details of these consultations, broken down by year of consultation launch are as follows:

2008

The Draft Categories of Gaming Machine (Amendment) Regulations 2009 and The Draft Gambling Act 2005 (Limits on Prize Gaming) Regulations 2009.

World Heritage for the Nation: Identifying, Protecting and Promoting our World Heritage.

Council of Europe Transfrontier Television Convention (TTV): Preliminary Consultation September 2008.

The Gambling Act (Variation of Monetary Limits for Gaming Machines) Order 2008.

Core Receiver Requirements for the Digital Switchover Help Scheme Consultation.

Licensing consultation—proposals to introduce a new minor variations process, and remove certain requirements at community premises.

Video Games consultation.

Public consultation on implementing the EU audiovisual media services directive.

Gambling Act 2005 (Variation of Monetary Limits) Order 2008.

Proposed Gambling Act 2005 (gaming machines in bingo premises) Order 2008.

Consultation on Television Multiplex Services (Reservation of Digital Capacity) Order 2008.

Consultation on Community Radio.

Gambling Act 2005—Proposals for Gambling Commission Fees from 1 August 2008.

2007

Consultation on proposal to introduce a simplified process for minor variations to premises licences and club premises certificates.

McMaster Review—Assessing excellence in the arts.

Consultation on draft regulations for museums on the publication of information about cultural objects on loan under Part 6 of the Tribunals, Courts and Enforcement Act 2007.

Regulatory Reform Order: Proposal to Remove the Requirement for the Designated Premises Supervisor for Community Premises.

The Governance of Britain, Flag Flying.

Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions on a European agenda for culture in a globalising world.

The Gambling Act (Small Society Lotteries) (Registration of Non-Commercial Societies) Regulations 2007.

Gambling Act 2005: Consultation on Temporary Use Notices.

Gambling Act 2005: Consultation on Draft Regulations under sections 235(5), 240 and 241 of the Gambling Act 2005.

DCMS Equality Scheme 2007-2010 Consultation.

Gambling Act 2005: Consultation on the Review of Premises Licence Regulations.

Gambling Act 2005: Consultation on Lottery Machine Interval Order.

Gambling Act 2005: Consultation on Gambling at Non-commercial Events.

Consultation—Gambling Act 2005: Licensed Premises Gaming Machine Permits Regulations.

Gambling Act 2005: Consultation on Club Gaming and Club Machine Permits.

Consultation on DCMS Welsh Language Scheme 2007-2011.

Consultation on The Gambling Act 2005: (Limits on Prize Gaming) Regulations.

Heritage Protection for the 21st Century—White Paper.

Gambling Act 2005: Definition of Dual-Use and Domestic Computers

Sports Ground Safety Legislation.

Gambling Act 2005: Gambling (Inviting competing applications for Casino Premises Licences) Regulations.

Gambling Act 2005: Consultation on Gaming Machine Regulations.

Gambling Act 2005: Consultation on Gaming in Clubs and on Alcohol licensed Premises.

Consultation on draft revised Guidance to be issued under section 182 of the Licensing Act 2003.

2006

Gambling Act 2005: Premises Licence and Permits Fees Consultation.

Gambling Act 2005: Consultation on Prize Gaming Permits and Family Entertainment Centre Gaming Machine Permits.

Consultation on Community Audio Distribution Systems.

Understanding the Future: Priorities for England's Museums.

Gambling Act 2005: Responsible Authority for Vulnerable Adults Consultation.

Gambling Act 2005: Consultation Document: Inspections.

Consultation and partial Regulatory Impact Assessment on extending the remit of the Football Licensing Authority to the Football Conference.

Gambling Act 2005: Premises Licence Regulations Consultation.

Gambling Act 2005: Premises Licence Hearings Regulations Consultation.

Proposals for Personal Licences—Consultation Paper.

The Gambling Appeals Tribunal Draft Rules 2006.

Draft Gambling (Premises Licences: Mandatory and Default Conditions) Regulations for the implementation of the Gambling Act 2005—Consultation Document.

Categories of Gaming Machines—Consultation Paper.

Gambling Act 2005: Fees—Costings Exercise.

Proposals for Gambling Commission Fees—Consultation Paper.

Welcome Legacy: Tourism Strategy for the 2012 Games—A Consultation.

Consultation Paper on Future Sponsorship Arrangements for the Museum of London.

Consultation on Restitution of Objects Spoliated in the Nazi-Era.

Gambling (Categories of Casino) Regulations and draft Order for the implementation of the Gambling Act 2005—Formal Consultation Exercise.

Proposal by the European Commission for the Revision of The "Television Without Frontiers" Directive (Directive 89/552/EC, amended by Directive 97/36/EC).

Data Limits and Data Services on Radio Multiplexes.

Consultation Paper on Amendments to the Treasure Act 1996 Code of Practice (Revised) England and Wales.

Consultation on Welsh Language Forms and Documents to be prescribed under the Licensing Act 2003.

BBC White Paper—"A public service for all: the BBC in the digital age" and Draft Royal Charter and Framework Agreement.

Consultation on providing immunity from seizure for international works of art on loan in the UK.

Consultation on the European Commission's proposal for European Year of Intercultural Dialogue 2008.

Transitional Arrangements and Draft Order for the implementation of the Gambling Act 2005—Consultation Paper.

Mr. Vara: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many public consultations his Department has conducted in the last 12 months; how long each consultation was open for; how many responses were received in each case; and what the cost of conducting each consultation was. [259693]

Mr. Sutcliffe: Details of all consultations are routinely published on the DCMS website at:

www.culture.gov.uk

In the 2008 calendar year DCMS launched 13 consultations. Full details for these consultations are supplied in the table. All consultations launched by the Department in 2009 are still open, and because of this data are continually changing and are not included.

Most consultations do not incur costs other than staffing time, as duties are usually undertaken by in-house teams, with the DCMS website as the mechanism recording representations. Where additional costs were incurred, details are listed in the following table—these mostly relate to costs incurred in translating material into Welsh.

Consultation	*Consultation period*	*Number of responses received*	*Cost (£)*
World Heritage for the Nation: Identifying, Protecting and Promoting our World Heritage	2 December to 25 February 2009	115	[1]4,750
The Draft Categories of Gaming Machine (Amendment) Regulations 2009 and The Draft Gambling Act 2005 (Limits on Prize Gaming) Regulations 2009	22 December 2008 to 9 January 2009	157	0
Council of Europe Transfrontier Television Convention (TTV): Preliminary Consultation September 2008	1 to 31 October 2008	1	0
The Gambling Act (Variation of Monetary Limits for Gaming Machines) Order 2008	5 September to 31 October 2008	15	0
Core Receiver Requirements for the Digital Switchover Help Scheme Consultation	1 September to 13 October 2008	7	0
Licensing consultation - proposals to introduce a new minor variations process, and remove certain requirements at community premises	4 August to 1 September 2008 (closing date for Welsh stakeholders: 9 September 2008)		
	Minor Variations responses	83	2,456.93
	Community Premises responses	67	[1]3,116.10
Video Games consultation	31 July to 20 November 2008	181	[2]23,578.23
Public consultation on implementing the EU audiovisual media services directive	25 July to 31 October 2008	59	0
Gambling Act 2005 (Variation of Monetary Limits) Order 2008	17 July to 9 October 2008	10	0
Proposed Gambling Act 2005 (gaming machines in bingo premises) Order 2008	26 June to 26 September 2008	26	0
Consultation on Television Multiplex Services (Reservation of Digital Capacity) Order 2008	18 April to 9 May 2008	9	0
Consultation on Community Radio	31 March to 6 June 2008	96	0
Gambling Act 2005 - Proposals for Gambling Commission Fees from 1st August 2008	10 March to 2 June 2008	27	0

[1] This cost was incurred through translation into Welsh

[2] These costs were incurred through translation into Welsh and for payment of research with a focus group comprising parents.

Note:

In all cases quoted costs do not include VAT, as this is recoverable.

Gaming Machines: Coastal Areas

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what recent representations he has received on seaside amusement machines; and if he will make a statement. [265496]

Barbara Follett: There were 157 responses to a second public consultation on revised prize limits for category C and certain types of category D gaming machines, which closed on 19 January 2009. The Draft Categories of Gaming Machine (Amendment) Regulations 2009 were laid in Parliament on 4 March 2009.

Government Olympic Executive

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many staff of his Department have been transferred to the Government Olympic Executive; and from which units such staff were transferred. [263983]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The Government Olympic Executive (GOE) currently comprises 89.8 full-time equivalent (FTE) staff of whom 27.6 have been recruited from other DCMS teams. Following a major restructuring of the Department last year we are unable to provide detailed information on the individual units in which staff worked before joining GOE. However, staff have joined the GOE from each of the main areas of the Department, including those responsible for policy, programmes, corporate services, external relations and private office.

Hotels: Fires

Mr. Hollobone: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what steps his Department is taking to assist small hospitality accommodation providers in implementing fire safety risk assessments. [265714]

Barbara Follett: Department for Communities and Local Government in consultation with DCMS and VisitBritain, recently published 'Do You Have Paying Guests' which provided additional information to help small accommodation providers comply with fire safety legislation. The booklet seeks to address specific difficulties that the hospitality industry, specifically B and Bs, guest houses and self catering properties, have faced in understanding the new rules. It is designed to encourage compliance, by giving the owners of these businesses practical advice on reducing fire risks in their establishments. It explains the risk assessment process, sets out sources of further advice and guidance and offer some practical information for owners on what may represent appropriate and proportionate fire safety measures in these types of premises.

Research: Finance

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport with reference to the answer of 24 November 2008, *Official Report*, column 1069W, on departmental research, whether any projects have been commissioned using his Department's Joint Research Budget since the date of that Answer. [263385]

Andy Burnham *[holding answer 13 March 2009]:* The Department has commissioned three projects:

(i) University of London's EPPI-centre and Matrix Knowledge Group have been appointed to conduct research on participation in culture and sport. The research will draw together current evidence to address fundamental questions for public policy development in this area: what drives engagement and how do we understand and maximise the value and benefits it brings. It will report in winter 2009-10.

(ii) Identifying and exploring options for developing a comprehensive national cultural and sporting assets database, building on active places http://www.activeplaces.co.uk/ and related datasets to look at supply across DCMS sectors. The scoping exercise will also explore the definition of a cultural and sporting asset. Contractors BOP Consulting will report in spring 2009.

(iii) Understanding regional evidence needs. With the advent of Integrated Regional Strategies, and the wind up of the Regional Cultural Consortiums, BMG have been commissioned to identify and appraise options for meeting research and evidence needs shared by the four agencies at regional level, ensuring that common research questions can be addressed consistently within a national framework. The work should propose a number of different models to achieve this. It will report in June 2009.

We are also working with the Economic and Social Research Council to place culture and sports engagement questions in Understanding Society:

http://www.understandingsociety.org.uk/

the new household longitudinal study. This will deliver initial data in 2011.

Royal Parks Agency: Repairs and Maintenance

Justine Greening: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much his Department *(a)* budgeted for and *(b)* spent on (i) car park maintenance and (ii) road maintenance for the Royal Parks Agency in relation to each Royal Park in each of the last five years; and if he will make a statement. [261952]

Barbara Follett *[holding answer 9 March 2009]:* The Royal Parks advise that expenditure on roads and parking areas is not disaggregated for each park. The combined expenditure figures on roads and parking areas over the past five years are as follows:

(a) Budgets

(i) and *(ii)* The provisional annual allocation for road and parking area maintenance was £500,000 per year for each year since 2004-05. This budget is not park specific. Expenditure is prioritised annually and the allocation adjusted accordingly.

(b) Expenditure

Roads and parking areas

	£
2004-05	
Richmond Park	369,000
Regent's Park	71,000
St. James's Park	30,000
Hyde Park	76,000
Total	546,000
2005-06	
Richmond Park	11,000
Regent's Park	642,000
Greenwich Park	25,000
Hyde Park	6,000
Bushy Park	473,000
Total	1,157,000
2006-07	
Regent's Park	290,000
St James's	58,000
Hyde Park	516,000
Total	864,000
2007-08	
Richmond Park	125,000
Regents Park	5,000
St James's Park	24,000

Roads and parking areas

	£
Hyde Park	[1]627,000
Total	781,000
2008-09	
Richmond	46,000
Regent's Park	65,000
St. James's Park	440,000
Hyde Park	135,000
Bushy Park	[2]789,000
Total	1,475,000
Total for period	4.823 million

[1] Includes TfL funding.

[2] Includes Heritage Lottery funding.

Notes:

1. All figures relate to major works and exclude expenditure on annual 'reactive maintenance' costs on roads and parking areas which is accounted separately as part of wider upkeep costs.

2. The figures also do not include expenditure on tracks, footpaths and rides that are available for the use of pedestrians, cyclists and horse riders.

Sports: Grants

Hugh Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what consideration he has given to including the grants made by the Big Lottery Fund to community sport in the new Sport England Community Sport Strategy. [256484]

Mr. Sutcliffe *[holding answer 12 February 2009]:* Sport England is responsible for the national strategy to develop a world-leading community sport system. The Big Lottery Fund provides support for community sport through its funding of health, education, environment and charitable purposes, and shares its experience with all its stakeholders, including Sport England. The strategy has been informed by the Big Lottery Fund's experience of funding community sport.

Sports: Public Consultation

Paul Holmes: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport which organisations *(a)* have been and *(b)* are planned to be consulted in drawing up the new whole sport plans. [264526]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The Whole Sport Plan process was conducted by Sport England. It provided the national governing bodies of 46 sports with the opportunity to present their vision for the whole of their sport, and many will have consulted widely as part of this process. The plans then went through a rigorous process of review by the Sport England engagement team, peer review and finally a national advisory panel, including representatives of the National Equality Partners (Sporting Equals, the Women's Sport and Fitness Foundation and the English Federation of Disability Sport).

Tourism: Coastal Areas

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what estimate he has made of the number of jobs in British seaside resorts which are dependent on the tourism industry. [265489]

Barbara Follett: The number of jobs in British seaside resorts dependent on tourism is unavailable. The number of jobs dependent on tourism is available only for the UK as a whole and is as follows:

			Thousand
	Employee jobs	*Self-employed jobs*	*All jobs*
2001	1,261.6	119.0	1,380.5
2002	1,277.9	119.8	1,397.7
2003	1,294.2	119.0	1,413.1
2004	1,326.8	129.6	1,456.4
2005	1,330.8	120.2	1,450.9
2006	1,316.2	126.9	1,443.1
2007	1,308.1	132.4	1,440.4
2008	1,317.7	146.0	1,463.7

Notes:

1. This table provides estimates of the number of people working whose jobs are supported by tourism.

2. The figures above are calculated by summing employee jobs and self-employment jobs (including self-employed as second job).

3. These estimates are based on the 'UK Tourism Satellite Account — First Steps Project' (TSA), which assesses the proportion of employment that is supported by tourism.

4. Due to revisions to the Workforce Jobs Survey in December 2008, back data have been revised.

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what estimate he has made of the number of visits made to the English coast for the purpose of outdoor recreation in each of the last three years. [265492]

Barbara Follett: VisitBritain have advised that they do not hold the information in the format requested. Research methodology changed mid-way through 2005 and full year data for overnight trips are only available for 2006 and 2007.

There were 20.7 million domestic overnight trips to the English seaside in 2006 and 20.4 million domestic overnight trips to the English seaside in 2007. No data detailing the purpose of these visits are held.

For day visits, the latest data are from Natural England's 2005 survey and include the purpose of these visits, details of which can be found at the following web link:

http://livelink/livelink/livelink.exe/fetch/2000/51254/246618/51948/51949/110303/England_Leisure_Day_Visit_Survey_2005.pdf?nodeid=2909669&vernum=-2

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Community Relations

Patrick Mercer: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer of 6 March 2009, *Official Report*, column 476W, on community relations, how much her Department is paying *(a)* the Tavistock Institute and *(b)* De Montfort University for the research commissioned from them. [264902]

Mr. Khan: The total value of the contract for the research conducted by the Tavistock Institute is £24,500 plus VAT. The total cost for the De Montfort University research contract is £65,600 plus VAT.

Patrick Mercer: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer of 6 March 2009, *Official Report*, column 476W, on community relations, by what date she expects *(a)* the Tavistock Institute and *(b)* De Montfort University to report to her Department on the results of their research into the national and international factors contributing to violent extremism. [264903]

Mr. Khan: The research that the Tavistock Institute is carrying out for Communities and Local Government has two phases. The first phase was finished in February, and the second phase, setting out guidelines for carrying out evaluation, is due to be available in April.

The final report for the Rapid Evidence Assessment research being carried out by De Montfort University is due to be completed in May.

Council Housing: Rents

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the written ministerial statement of 6 March 2009, *Official Report*, columns 71-2WS on local authority rents, what the timetable is for *(a)* additional subsidy to be granted and *(b)* rents to be reduced. [263033]

Mr. Iain Wright: Communities and Local Government wrote to local authorities on 11 March with further information following the announcement on 6 March by the Minister for Housing, my right hon. Friend the Member for Derby, South (Margaret Beckett), of the reduction by half in the national average guideline rent increase for 2009-10.

The letter sets out a broad timetable for implementation of the changes for those authorities accepting our offer. After a short period of consultation on new guideline rents for each authority, we envisage issuing the final 2009-10 amending Housing Revenue Account (HRA) subsidy determination with reduced rental income for participating authorities in May. It would then be for those authorities to introduce the changes to their own timetables for reducing their tenants' rents.

Home Ownership Incentive Schemes

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the average price of a property purchased through the Own Home scheme has been since the initiative began. [265005]

Mr. Iain Wright: The average price of property purchased through Own Home is £175,000.

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the average monthly interest charged by First Time Buyers Initiative *(a)* funders and *(b)* providers has been since the scheme began. [265009]

Mr. Iain Wright: This information is not held centrally. However, there is no interest to pay on the loan for the first three years following purchase.

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much *(a)* the Government and *(b)* its partners have provided for the First Time Buyers Initiative; and how much will be provided in each of the next three years. [265013]

Mr. Iain Wright: The First Time Buyers Initiative programme is funded through a government-only equity loan. The maximum level of investment under the programme will be £250 million. To date, around £137 million of the total budget has been committed. The investment phase of the programme will end in March 2010. The final level of investment will be dependent on the number of purchasers that buy a home on one of the programme's designated new build schemes.

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much *(a)* the Government and *(b)* its partners have provided for the OwnHome scheme; and how much will be provided in each of the next three years. [265018]

Mr. Iain Wright: The Government have provided £33.8 million for OwnHome in 2008-09. This was augmented with funding from Places for People. Over the three years 2008-11, we are investing over £8 billion in affordable housing through the Homes and Communities Agency (HCA). We have not allocated specific funds for OwnHome for each of the next two years to allow full flexibility within the Affordable Housing Programme operated by the HCA. Future levels of funds beyond 2010-11 will be dependent upon the next spending review.

Homebuy Scheme

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much her Department has spent on publicising each of the Homebuy schemes to date; and how much she expects to be so spent in each of the next two financial years. [265912]

Margaret Beckett: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given on 31 January 2008, *Official Report*, columns 585-86W to the hon. Member for Hazel Grove (Andrew Stunell).

Homelessness

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many private sector properties were leased by *(a)* local authorities and *(b)* housing associations in order to house homeless households in each year since 1997. [265241]

Mr. Iain Wright: Information about English local housing authorities' actions under the homelessness legislation (part 7 of the Housing Act 1996) is collected quarterly at local authority level.

Data collected include the number of households accepted by local housing authorities as eligible for assistance, unintentionally homeless and in priority need, and therefore owed a main homelessness duty (to secure that suitable accommodation is available). If a settled home is not immediately available, the authority must secure temporary accommodation until a settled home becomes so.

Information on the numbers of households housed in temporary accommodation is reported quarterly by local authorities as at the last day of each quarter. The figure includes: those households which have been accepted as owed the main homelessness duty; those for which enquiries are pending; those being accommodated for a limited period because they have been found intentionally homeless and in priority need; those being accommodated pending possible referral to another authority, and those being accommodated pending the outcome of a local authority review or county court appeal.

The number of households in temporary accommodation, housed in private sector properties leased by local authorities and registered social landlords at the end of the each year since 1997, is shown in the following table:

Households in temporary accommodation arranged by local authorities under homelessness legislation, housed in private sector properties leased by LAs and RSLs, as at 31 December, 1997 to 2008

	Private sector properties leased by:	
	(a) Local authorities	*(b) Registered social landlords*
1997	3,950	7,400
1998	4,370	10,380
1999	5,140	11,140
2000	4,530	17,080
2001	4,180	16,420
2002	6,990	18,950
2003	16,890	21,850
2004	21,530	24,610
2005	27,890	22,020
2006	29,920	18,930
2007	26,590	15,140
2008	26,620	12,160

Source:
CLG P1E Homelessness returns (quarterly)

Housing: Construction

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how often her Department makes estimates of the number of new home builds; and if she will make a statement. [264994]

Mr. Iain Wright: The Department publish quarterly information on the number of new house building starts and completions in England. The latest National Statistics release "House Building: December Quarter 2008, England" was published on 19 February 2009, and is available on the Department's website at:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/corporate/statistics/housebuildingq42008

New house building completions are the main component of net supply of housing, which measures the absolute change in the dwelling stock between 1 April and 31 March the following year.

Net supply to dwelling stock is published annually. The latest statistical release "Net supply of housing: 2007-08, England" was published on 27 February 2009, and is available on the Department's website at:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/corporate/statistics/netsupplyhousing200708

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many homes have been built on land formerly owned by *(a)* the Ministry of Defence, *(b)* the National Health Service, *(c)* schools and *(d)* other government bodies in each year since 1997. [265070]

Mr. Iain Wright: A national system for collecting information about surplus public sector land did not exist in 1997. In 2004, the Government established the Register of Surplus Public Sector Land which now requires Government Departments to register land that is to be disposed of, for any future use including housing.

However, as part of the Surplus Public Sector Land programme, the Homes and Communities Agency (previously English Partnerships) has been working with Government Departments and other bodies to collect information about land they have sold that has subsequently been used for housing. The information available does not include schools but shows that the number of homes built since 1997 on the following bodies' surplus land were as follows:

	Number
Ministry of Defence	10,871
National Health Service/Department of Health	30,474
Government bodies (British Waterway, DEFRA, Homes and Communities Agency)	18,160

These figures are likely to under-represent the number of homes built on land formerly owned by Government bodies. However, more detailed information cannot be provided without disproportionate cost.

Housing: Low Incomes

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many affordable homes were on the market in each of the last 20 quarters. [264988]

Mr. Iain Wright: Information on the number of affordable homes on the market is not collected centrally.

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many affordable homes were constructed in each of the last 20 quarters. [264989]

Mr. Iain Wright: The following table shows the number of additional affordable homes provided in England in each of the last five years. These figures are not available quarterly.

	Number of affordable homes provided
2003-04	38,070
2004-05	37,470
2005-06	45,980
2006-07	44,570
2007-08	53,730

The affordable housing figures are from the Homes and Communities Agency Investment Management System (IMS), and Housing Strategy Statistical Appendix (HSSA) returns and P2 house building returns submitted to CLG by local authorities and the National House-Building Council.

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government on what date the Design for Manufacture competition was *(a)* opened and *(b)* closed; and if she will make a statement. [265263]

Margaret Beckett: The Design for Manufacture Competition was announced by the then Deputy Prime Minister, my right hon. Friend the Member for Kingston upon Hull, East (Mr. Prescott), on 26 September 2004. The Prior Information Notice was issued on 15 February 2005, and the Contract Notice (which formally opened the competition process) was issued on 29 March 2005. This allowed consortiums to register their interest in participating and to request the necessary initial documents. The last of the 10 site contracts was awarded in July 2006, and that brought the competition stage of the programme to a close. A document called 'Designed for Manufacture—lessons learnt', which explained the competition process and the individual projects in detail, was published in June 2006.

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer of 17 March 2009, *Official Report*, columns 1107-8W, on housing: low incomes, when she expects a decision to be made on Ministerial approval of funding for the Up2You/First Steps scheme; and if she will make a statement. [265571]

Margaret Beckett: The "Up2U/First Steps" scheme announced by the Mayor of London on 3 March was potentially novel and therefore my approval was required before funding from the Homes and Communities Agency could be committed. I immediately asked my officials to work with the Homes and Communities Agency (HCA) to ensure that the scheme offered good value for money and that there were no practical or legal barriers to it proceeding.

This detailed work showed that there was scope to reduce the delivery risk and improve the value for money offered by the "Up2U/First Steps" scheme. I have now approved a revised deal between the HCA and London and Quadrant (L&Q). This deal will involve the properties that were to be covered by the "Up2U/First Steps" scheme being delivered through the Government's existing intermediate market products (including Rent to HomeBuy, Intermediate Rent and New Build HomeBuy).

As a result of this deal, all of the properties that were to be covered by the "Up2U/First Steps" scheme will now be made available at completion as affordable housing and will not instead be sold outright. As such, the deal will not only unlock development by L&Q and support the construction industry—it will also offer a better deal for both first time buyers and taxpayers.

Housing: Prices

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the ratio of lower quintile house prices to lower quintile earnings was in each of the last 20 quarters. [264991]

Mr. Iain Wright: The ratio of lower quintile house prices to lower quintile earnings in England for the years 1997 to 2008 is presented in the following table:

	Lower quintile house prices to lower quintile earnings, England
1997	3.51
1998	3.52
1999	3.66
2000	3.79
2001	3.97
2002	4.31
2003	4.94
2004	6.14
2005	6.66
2006	7.10
2007	7.37
2008	7.03

Source:
Land Registry and the Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings (ONS).

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what forecast she has made of likely changes in the housing affordability ratio throughout 2009. [264993]

Mr. Iain Wright: Communities and Local Government does not make forecasts of the housing affordability ratio.

Mortgages: Government Assistance

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer of 12 March 2009, *Official Report*, columns 746-7W, on mortgages: Government assistance, how many of the cases identified meeting the eligibility criteria for the Homeowners Mortgage Support Scheme have received assistance. [265911]

Margaret Beckett: The Homeowners Mortgage Support Scheme is expected to open in April with the first lenders. The scheme will help ensure hard working people who suffer a temporary loss of income can stay in their home. It enables households that experience a redundancy or significant loss of income to reduce their monthly payments to a more manageable level, by deferring a proportion of the interest payments on their mortgage for up to two years. Further detail, including the eligibility criteria is available at:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/housing/buyingselling/mortgagesupportscheme/

Multiple Occupation

Mr. Ellwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what powers local authorities have in relation to the development of houses in multiple occupation in areas identified as tourist destinations. [264107]

Mr. Iain Wright: There are no planning powers conferred on local authorities specifically in relation to the development of houses in multiple occupation in areas identified as tourist destinations. But local authorities may make use of their general planning powers in such areas.

The Town and Country Planning (Use Classes) Order 1987 (as amended) is intended to be a deregulatory mechanism which removes the need for planning permission between certain specified uses by grouping into classes land uses which have similar implications for local amenity. The Use Classes Order defines dwelling houses under the C3 use class as houses used by a single person, any number of persons living together as a family, or by no more than six people living together as a single household.

HMOs do not fall within any of the specified use classes, and therefore are "sui generis" (in a class of its own) in terms of use. Planning permission is needed for a change of use to or from a sui generis use. Therefore, planning permission would be needed for a proposed change of use from a private dwelling to a HMO, or if such is deemed to have occurred.

The current definition of a dwelling house implies that up to six people living together as a single household should not, prima facie, be considered as a HMO. However local planning authorities may determine individual cases on the basis of "fact and degree" and may decide that a dwelling with fewer than six people living together other than as a single household constitutes a HMO.

In addition, local authorities have powers under the Housing Act 2004 to licence certain HMOs. These measures concern the condition and management of these properties and, again, are not specifically related to areas identified as tourist destinations.

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government for what reasons her Department has decided not to continue with National Indicator 12; and what plans she has to replace it with a comparable indicator. [262609]

Mr. Woolas: I have been asked to reply.

The Government remain committed to tackling the problems arising from rogue landlords providing private rented accommodation to illegal migrants. Having consulted the Local Government Association and the professional local government regulatory services body LACORS, we concluded that there are more effective alternative ways of promoting joint working between United Kingdom Border Agency officials and their local government counterparts across a broader spectrum of common interests than proceeding with the proposed National indicator 12. That includes the development of partnership working between local authorities and the new network of UK Border Agency local immigration teams, the majority of which will be in place by the end of next year. We will consider whether it would be appropriate to devise and consult on alternative indicators relating to immigration as part of the refresh of the National Indicator Set which is due to conclude in 2011.

Planning Obligations

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether she plans to phase out section 106 agreements following the introduction of the Community Infrastructure Levy. [265048]

Mr. Iain Wright: Planning obligations (also known as section 106 agreements of the 1990 Town and Country Planning Act) will remain available to local planning authorities after CIL regulations come into force. However, the Government are considering whether there is a case to restrict the scope of planning obligations in the future. Further details were set out in Chapter 5 of the Government's policy document, "The Community Infrastructure Levy" (August 2008) available on the Communities and Local Government website.

Planning Permission

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many pages of national planning guidance have been issued since 2005. [265046]

Mr. Iain Wright: Since 1 January 2005, we and our precursor Department (The Office of the Deputy Prime Minister) have published approximately 3,254 pages of national planning guidance. This total includes Planning Policy Statements, Circulars and other guidance documents. Some of these are available only in electronic form, on the web. Documents published since 2005 but subsequently cancelled have been omitted. We announced in the Planning White Paper (2007) that we would significantly streamline the planning policy framework.

Planning: Horticulture

Bob Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what her estimate is of the *(a)* number and *(b)* percentage of local planning officers which have (i) a horticulture-related qualification and (ii) received training in horticulture. [265900]

Mr. Iain Wright: This information is not held centrally.

Property Development

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the average price per hectare of land for new build development was in each local authority area in each of the last five years. [265269]

Mr. Iain Wright: The information requested could be provided only at disproportionate cost. However, during the last five years the Valuation Office Agency (VOA) has published twice yearly the VOA Property Market Report. The report gives opinions of value each year, as at 1 January and 1 July, for land for development for residential use. The reports for this period are available to view on the VOA website at:

www.voa.gov.uk/publications

The report gives values for 97 separate locations in England, plus 10 in Scotland and eight in Wales, where significant residential development is considered to be most likely to occur.

Property Transfer

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many local authorities have implemented large scale voluntary housing transfers in each year since 1997. [264997]

Mr. Iain Wright: The following table lists the number of local authorities that have undertaken large scale voluntary transfer of housing stock in each financial year since 1997. The figure for 2008-09 is the number we expect to complete transfers.

	Number of local authorities
1997-98	15
1998-99	21
1999-2000	25
2000-01	18
2001-02	14
2002-03	22
2003-04	10
2004-05	14
2005-06	12
2006-07	16
2007-08	26
2008-09	6

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the cost to the public purse of large-scale voluntary transfers of housing stock was in each year since 1997. [264999]

Mr. Iain Wright: The Department does not keep any central records of the total cost of large-scale voluntary transfers to local authorities.

Two separate payments can be made when a local authority transfers its housing stock to a registered social landlord (RSL).

If a local authority's attributable housing debt is not cleared either in part or in entirety by receipts from an RSL through Large Scale Voluntary Transfer (LSVT) arrangements, the debt that remains is transferred from the local authority sector to central Government through a payment made to the Public Works Loan Board. Overhanging debt (OHD) payments to the Public Works Loan Board under these debt transfer arrangements since 2000-01 are shown in the following table. The Department began payments to the PWLB in 2000-01.

	OHD amount (£ million)
2000-01	276
2001-02	0
2002-03	548
2003-04	91
2004-05	591
2005-06	386
2006-07	544
2007-08	1,213
2008-09	[1]515

[1] Includes transfers expected to complete by the end of financial year 2008-09.

Grant funding payments can be made to RSLs taking negatively valued housing stock from local authorities under LSVT arrangements. Since 1 December 2008, the Homes and Communities Agency has assumed responsibility for the housing transfer programme and will continue to make payments as required.

These gap funding grant payments enable RSLs to lever in sufficient private finance to enable full Decent Homes investment programmes to be undertaken after transfer. Gap funding payments by the Department to registered social landlords to support large scale voluntary transfers commenced in 2004-05. The following table sets out those payments.

	£ million
2004-05	7.6
2005-06	3.8
2006-07	22
2007-08	80
2008-09	[1]120

[1] Forecast.

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what her Department's liability relating to annual gap-funding agreements for negative value transfers of council housing stock was in each of the last five years; and if she will make a statement. [265084]

Mr. Iain Wright: Gap funding grant payments by the Department to registered social landlords taking negatively valued housing stock under Large Scale Voluntary Transfer arrangements commenced in 2004-05. Responsibility for the housing transfer programme passed to the Homes and Communities Agency on 1 December 2008, who assumed responsibility for these grants, making payments from that date. In 2008-09, we expect that grant payments of around £120 million to be made in respect of gap funding agreements entered into for that year.

The following table sets out the gap funding grant expenditure in each year.

Gap funding payments

	£ million
2004-05	7.6
2005-06	3.8
2006-07	22
2007-08	80

Regional Planning and Development

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many local authorities have approved local development frameworks in place; and what progress has been made to ensure that all authorities have such frameworks in place. [265047]

Mr. Iain Wright: 'Local development framework' is the collective name for the various spatial planning-related documents that local planning authorities have prepared. To date the Planning Inspectorate has considered and found sound:

43 Core Strategies
30 Area Action Plans
Seven Site Allocation Policies
Seven Development Control Policies
11 Minerals and Waste Policies
Nine other plans dealing with specific themes
385 Statements of Community Involvement.

Supplementary Planning Documents do not need to be approved by the Planning Inspectorate and there is no central record of the number adopted.

The Government agree timetables for the delivery of plans (Local Development Schemes) with local authorities and hold regular discussions with them about progress. Sector-led support is provided through the Planning Advisory Service to authorities who decide they require assistance in the preparation of their plans and the Government also fund a programme of visits by Planning Inspectors to authorities to help with plan preparation.

Repossession Orders

Mr. Hollobone: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what assessment she has made of the effect on the Government's housing strategies in *(a)* Northamptonshire and *(b)* England of trends in the numbers of (i) repossessed and (ii) empty homes in the last 12 months. [265722]

Mr. Iain Wright: We continue to monitor trends in numbers of repossessed and empty homes. Information on repossessions is available separately from the Council of Mortgage Lenders and Financial Services Authority. These data are available at the UK level only. Information on mortgage and landlord possession orders at county court level are available via the Ministry of Justice website:

http://www.justice.gov.uk/docs/stats-landlord-mortgage-historic-20-02-09.xls

For trends in long-term (over six months) vacant dwellings at England and local authority level, I refer the hon. Member to the answer given on 16 December 2008, *Official Report*, column 586W. We have strengthened local authorities' powers to deal with empty homes through:

Use of Empty Dwelling Management Orders (EDMOs) that allow councils to bring homes back into use without forcing change of ownership;

Supporting the publication on 10 March of the independent Empty Homes Agency's Guidance on Empty Dwelling Management Orders, for which my right hon. Friend the Minister for Housing and Planning provided the foreword;

Promoting best practice among local authorities by hosting a seminar.

Shared Ownership Schemes

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many shared ownership completions there were in each region in the last 12 months. [265074]

Mr. Iain Wright: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given on 3 March 2009, *Official Report*, columns 1540-42W. The new build Homebuy figures in the first table show the number of shared ownership completions in England, by region. These figures are only available annually, not by month.

Social Rented Housing

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many households lived in social housing in each year since 1997. [265000]

Mr. Iain Wright: The information requested is not readily available for the United Kingdom.

Estimates of the number of households in England who were living in social housing in each year since 1997 are set out in the following table.

Households in social rented accommodation, England 1997 to 2008

	Number (Thousand)
1997	4,170
1998	4,148
1999	4,072
2000	3,953
2001	3,983
2002	3,972
2003	3,804
2004	3,797
2005	3,696
2006	3,736
2007	3,755
2008	3,797

Source:
ONS Labour Force Survey

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much her Department plans to spend on providing social rented housing in *(a)* 2008-09 and *(b)* each of the next three years. [265267]

Mr. Iain Wright: In England, over the three years 2008 to 2011, we are investing over £8 billion in affordable housing through the Homes and Communities Agency (HCA). Around £6.5 billion of this will be directed towards social rented homes.

We have not allocated specific funds in each of the next three years to allow full flexibility within the Affordable Housing programme operated by the HCA. This has allowed us to bring forward £550 million from 2010-11 into earlier years for social rented homes.

Future levels of funds available for social rent and all affordable housing beyond 2010-11 will be dependent upon the next spending review.

Tenant Services Authority

Mr. Burstow: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much her Department has allocated to the Tenant Services Authority in each of the next three years. [263352]

Mr. Iain Wright: Indicative funding allocations for the Tenant Services Authority between 2009-11 is as follows:

	£ million
2009-10	35.623
2010-11	35.173

This excludes any additional resources that may be allocated for specific initiatives at a later date. Following completion of the exercise to disaggregate the Housing Corporation spend, there was some late adjustments to the 2009-10 TSA budget. The £35.623 million is the latest position and this is reflected in the information submitted to the HM Treasury.

Budget allocations for the period after 2010-11 will be set as part of the next comprehensive spending review. Final budgets will be agreed with the TSA on an annual basis.

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the *(a)* dates and *(b)* locations of the planned regional events to be hosted by the Tenants Service Authority during phase 1 of its National Conversation are. [265258]

Mr. Iain Wright: The National Conversation events organised by the TSA for tenants commenced in Leeds on 27 January and finished on 5 March in Bristol.

The complete list of regional National Conversation events for tenants is as follows:

	Date of event
Leeds	27 January
Manchester	3 February
Birmingham	4 February
Durham	5 February
Leicester	11 February
Cambridge	12 February
Gatwick	24 February
Twickenham	25 February
London	26 February
Plymouth	4 March
Bristol	5 March

The TSA also hosted National Conversation events for landlords. A complete list of these is as follows:

Date	*Venue*	*Location*
11 March 2009	Aston Villa Stadium	Birmingham
12 March 2009	Corn Exchange	Exeter
17 March 2009	Ramside Hall	Durham
18 March 2009	City of Manchester Stadium	Manchester
19 March 2009	Emirates Stadium	London

Further information on the National Conversation can be found on the website at:

http://www.nationalconversation.co.uk/Conversations.aspx

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government when she expects the Tenant Services Authority and other interested parties to agree timescales for the process for the inclusion of local authorities and arms-length management organisations in the revised regulatory regime for social housing. [265326]

Mr. Iain Wright: Section 114 of the Housing and Regeneration Act 2008 allows the Secretary of State to make an order to bring local authorities within the Tenant Services Authority's regulatory regime. We intend to publish a draft order for consultation later this year. Following consideration of consultation responses we intend to lay an order and, subject to parliamentary approval, we expect that the TSA will be regulating local authority landlords from April 2010.

WORK AND PENSIONS

Children: Maintenance

Tom Brake: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions on how many occasions where the Child Support Agency was not able to make deductions directly from non-resident parents' benefit due to technical difficulties in the last three years it was *(a)* possible and *(b)* not possible to establish why the technical fault occurred. [258647]

Kitty Ussher: The Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission is responsible for the child maintenance system. I have therefore asked the Child Maintenance Commissioner to write to the hon. Member with the information requested.

Letter from Stephen Geraghty:

In reply to your recent Parliamentary Question about the Child Support Agency, the Secretary of State promised a substantive reply from the Child Maintenance Commissioner as the Child Support Agency is now the responsibility of the Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission.

You asked the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions in relation to how many occasions on which the Child Support Agency was not able to make deductions directly from non-resident parents' benefit due to technical difficulties in the last three years it was (a) possible and (b) not possible to establish why the technical fault occurred. [258647]

In child maintenance cases where the non-resident parent is in receipt of state benefit, the Child Support Agency may issue a request to Jobcentre Plus to make a flat rate maintenance deduction from their benefits. This automated request may initially be rejected when the information the Child Support Agency holds differs from that held by Jobcentre Plus; for example, the benefits are now being administered by a different office from where the original request was sent, or the benefits are suspended pending a decision. These reasons are in fact administrative in nature and unfortunately are sometimes perceived to be and explained as technical issues. I understand that such a misunderstanding may have occurred in relation to a constituent's case, for which I apologise.

In such cases, the revised request will often be accepted before affecting maintenance deductions, which are carried out bi-weekly in accordance with benefit payments. Therefore, even if a request to deduct maintenance is initially rejected for an administrative reason, this does not necessarily mean that the maintenance payment was not received by the parent-with-care on time. The Agency does not hold information on the number of rejections which resulted in a deduction being missed or the different reasons why a request may be rejected.0

I hope you find this answer helpful.

Departmental Absenteeism

Mr. Scott: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many staff of his Department were recorded absent for non-medical reasons on *(a)* 2 February 2009 and *(b)* 3 February 2009; what estimate he has made of the (i) cost to his Department and (ii) number of working hours lost as a result of such absence; and what guidance his Department issued to staff in respect of absence on those days. [260574]

Jonathan Shaw: The number of staff absent due to non-medical reasons is not held centrally. This is because it includes annual leave, flexi leave and special leave. Therefore, to provide the data for 2 and 3 February in respect of our total staffing of over 100,000 would incur disproportionate cost.

In addition to the policies governing absence and leave, specific HR advice was issued to cover absences on 2 and 3 February due to the adverse weather. Where employees attempted to come into work but were unable to do so because of the adverse weather and travel disruption, they were credited with the hours normally worked on these days. Overall the Department is grateful to the very many of its staff who made considerable efforts to get into work on the days in question.

Departmental Official Engagements

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the official engagements of each Minister in his Department were between 1 February 2009 to 28 February 2009. [262967]

Jonathan Shaw *[holding answer 12 March 2009]*: I am depositing a table of information in the Library.

Accurate information on the length of time spent on each engagement could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Postal Services

Mr. Jenkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many items of correspondence his Department sent *(a)* by Royal Mail and *(b)* by other commercial delivery services in each of the last two years; and what the reasons were for the use of services other than Royal Mail. [264534]

Jonathan Shaw: DWP postal volumes delivered by Royal Mail Group over the past two years were approximately 200 million items to customers (2008-09) and were approximately similar volumes in the previous financial year (2007-08).

DWP postal volumes delivered by other postal providers over the same period are as follows:

UK Mail—volume 95 million items (2008-09) and 80 million items (2007-08) 2nd class postal output to DWP customers from DWP's regional delivery centres (RDCs) at Washington and Norcross sites.; the final mile is still delivered by Royal Mail;

Spring Global Mail—volume 2 million items (2008-09) and 1.9 million items (2007-08) for international mail to DWP customers.

Since the liberalisation of the UK mail market in January 2006, the Department for Work and Pensions has taken the opportunity to source alternative suppliers (who must hold appropriate licences from Postcomm) to deliver UK postal services via Down Stream Access (DSA). The National Audit Office (NAO) also endorses the use of DSA across public sector postal requirements.

DWP remains committed to using Royal Mail postal services and we have developed a range of joint initiatives to further enhance our relationship and deliver postal efficiencies. DWP is also monitoring the developing postal marketplace for best value for money opportunities for taxpayers

Departmental Press

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much his Department has spent on newspapers, magazines and periodicals in each year since 1997. [261255]

Jonathan Shaw: DWP was formed in June 2001 from Department of Social Security (DSS) and parts of the former Department for Education and Employment, including the Employment Service (ES). Information for the periods prior to June 2001 is not available.

Information on the amount spent in each financial year from 2001 onwards is set out in the following table.

£

Financial year	*Newspaper/ magazine spend*	*Periodical spend*
2001-02	24,757.96	228,207.11
2002-03	[1]—	314,328.85
2003-04	[1]—	266,764.89
2004-05	54,298.68	164,068.43
2005-06	66,265.94	122,040.63
2006-07	73,794.25	134,642.74
2007-08	56,364.35	138,063.72

[1] Included in Periodical spend.

Departmental Surveys

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions pursuant to the answer of 11 March 2009, *Official Report*, columns 534-5W, on departmental staff surveys, if he will place in the Library a copy of his Department's most recent staff survey results and the analysis of the results. [265429]

Jonathan Shaw *[holding answer 20 March 2009]*: The most recent DWP Survey results (January 2008) are already available in the House of Commons Library. All previous DWP surveys can be viewed on the following site under the heading 'The Way We Work':

http://www.dwp.gov.uk/resourcecentre/corporate-publications.asp

Over 1,200 reports are produced for all the teams participating in the survey. Therefore these could be collated and placed in the Library only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Temporary Employment

Justine Greening: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what his Department's policy is on the renewal of the contracts of *(a)* temporary and *(b)* agency staff. [264244]

Jonathan Shaw: Temporary staff may be recruited into the Department for Work and Pensions only for a maximum period of 39 weeks. Such appointments are renewed on an exceptional basis, up to a total period of employment not exceeding 12 months—as stipulated by the civil service recruitment code. Where the need is anticipated to be more than 39 weeks at the onset; recruitment should be through fair and open competition on fixed term or permanent appointments.

Agency workers are engaged by the Department to fill identified skills gaps or to provide support not currently available. Such appointments should be short term and in response to specific business requirements. Controls are in place to ensure any renewal of contracts beyond six, or exceptionally 12, months can be authorised only at a very senior level. Agency workers are brought into the Department via interim personnel framework agreements.

Departmental Training

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many *(a)* staff and *(b)* ministerial away days were organised by his Department in each of the last five years; and what the total cost was in each year. [265110]

Jonathan Shaw: The Department for Work and Pensions does not have a separate or identifiable account code in departmental finance records to distinguish expenditure on either staff or ministerial away days. To try and identify any such expenditure would incur a disproportionate amount of time and cost.

Spending on staff away days is made in accordance with published departmental guidance on financial procedures and propriety, which is based on the principles set out in Managing Public Money and the Treasury handbook on Regularity and Propriety. All spending on ministerial away days is made in accordance with the principles set out within Ministerial Guidance.

Disability Living Allowance

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions pursuant to the contribution of the Minister for Disabled People of 17 March 2009, *Official Report*, columns 852-5, from what budget the funding for the extension of higher rate mobility component of disability living allowance will be drawn. [265507]

Jonathan Shaw: The measure extending the higher rate of the mobility component of disability living allowance to people who are severely visually impaired will not be introduced before April 2011. We are confident that by the date of its introduction the Department will have re-prioritised annually managed expenditure to ensure that funding is available.

Disability Living Allowance: Tamworth

Mr. Jenkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people in Tamworth constituency claimed disability living allowance in the latest year for which figures are available. [264531]

Jonathan Shaw: At August 2008, 4,940 people in Tamworth constituency were claiming disability living allowance.

Notes:

1. Figure is rounded to the nearest 10.

2. Figure shows the number of people in receipt of the allowance, and excludes people with entitlement where the payment has been suspended, for example if they are in hospital.

3. This figure is published on the DWP website:

www.dwp.gov.uk/asd/tabtool.asp

Source:

DWP Information Directorate: Work and Pensions Longitudinal Study.

Disability Living Allowance: Yorkshire and the Humber

Jeff Ennis: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people in *(a)* Barnsley and *(b)* Doncaster were in receipt of disability living allowance in each year since 1997. [264552]

Jonathan Shaw: The information is in the following table.

Disability living allowance cases in payment in Barnsley and Doncaster local authority areas

	Barnsley	*Doncaster*
August 1997	13,700	15,200
August 1998	14,200	15,700
August 1999	14,200	16,200
August 2000	14,900	17,000
August 2001	16,400	17,200
August 2002	16,660	18,140
August 2003	17,290	18,910
August 2004	17,730	19,320
August 2005	17,930	19,560
August 2006	18,230	19,860
August 2007	18,590	20,310
August 2008	18,910	20,700

Notes:

1. August 2002-08 figures are rounded to the nearest 10.

2. Pre-August 2002 figures are rounded to the nearest 100.

3. There are no data available for disability living allowance in the WPLS before May 2002.

4. Totals show the number of people in receipt of an allowance, and exclude people with entitlement where the payment has been suspended, for example if they are in hospital.

Sources:

1. August 2002-08: 100 per cent. work and pensions longitudinal study.

2. Pre-August 2002: 5 per cent. sample data adjusted to be consistent with 100 per cent. WPLS totals.

Employment and Support Allowance

John Howell: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions whether the new integrated disability employment support package being proposed to replace Work Preparation and Workstep will include a disability impact assessment. [262639]

Jonathan Shaw: An Equality Impact Assessment was published in December 2008 on initiatives covered in the White Paper "Raising expectations and increasing support: reforming welfare for the future". This included a focus on disability in the new specialist disability programme replacing Workstep, Work Preparation and Job Introduction Scheme. The Equality Impact Assessment was published on-line, in December 2008, at:

www.dwp.gov.uk/raisingexpectations

and is being kept under review.

Mr. Evennett: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people were receiving disability benefit in *(a)* Bexleyheath and Crayford constituency, *(b)* the London Borough of Bexley and *(c)* Greater London in each of the last five years. [264972]

Jonathan Shaw: The available information is in the table.

Number of people receiving disability living allowance and attendance allowance

		Bexleyheath and Crayford parliamentary constituency	*Bexley local authority*	*London Government office region*
August 2004	Attendance allowance	1,720	4,370	121,780
	Disability living allowance	2,800	7,140	262,050

Number of people receiving disability living allowance and attendance allowance

		Bexleyheath and Crayford parliamentary constituency	*Bexley local authority*	*London Government office region*
August 2005	Attendance allowance	1,780	4,560	124,750
	Disability living allowance	2,960	7,500	270,310
August 2006	Attendance allowance	1,790	4,640	127,800
	Disability living allowance	3,080	7,790	276,290
August 2007	Attendance allowance	1,860	4,840	130,400
	Disability living allowance	3,240	8,180	285,940
August 2008	Attendance allowance	1,960	5,100	133,680
	Disability living allowance	3,440	8,680	296,600

Notes:
1. Figures are rounded to the nearest 10.
2. Figures show the number of people in receipt of an allowance, and exclude people with entitlement where the payment has been suspended, for example if they are in hospital.
3. Figures are published on the DWP website at: www.dwp.gov.uk/asd/tabtool.asp
Source:
DWP Information Directorate: 100 per cent. Work and Pensions Longitudinal Study.

Incapacity Benefit: Employment Schemes

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) whether participation in welfare to work activities as part of the invest to save pathfinders for existing incapacity benefit claimants is compulsory; [255137]

(2) what the minimum level of expected participation will be for incapacity benefit claimants covered by the invest to save pathfinders. [255138]

Jonathan Shaw: In the 'invest to save' pathfinders, we plan to provide support to existing incapacity benefits claimants once they have transferred to the employment and support allowance. Participation in activities such as work focused interviews and work-related activity will be mandatory for claimants in the Employment and Support Allowance Work-Related Activity Group.

Consistent with the 'Progression to Work' model recommended in the Gregg Review, we expect that all claimants participating in the 'invest to save' pathfinders will:

have an action plan;

be required to undertake work-related activity; and

have regular contact with their provider to ensure a minimum level of contact and engagement.

Claimants placed in the Employment and Support Allowance Support Group will not be required to undertake any mandatory activities, although they will be able to volunteer for back-to-work support.

Industrial Health and Safety: Sellafield

Greg Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what steps the Health and Safety Executive plans to take in respect of the delays in Sellafield Ltd meeting the Nuclear Installations Inspectorate's specifications on safety at legacy ponds and silos at the Sellafield site. [255994]

Jonathan Shaw: There are three extant specifications (No's 324, 325 and 326) relating to Intermediate Level Waste stored in facilities in legacy ponds and silos at the Sellafield site.

The specifications are worded in such a way that they require radioactive wastes to be removed from their current locations and placed in safer storage conditions by particular dates. HSE is monitoring progress towards these dates and its Nuclear Installations Inspectorate wrote to Sellafield Ltd. on 29 September 2008 seeking information to inform future enforcement decisions should the work not be completed by the due dates.

Jobseeker's Allowance

Andrew Selous: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what information his Department holds on the number of Jobcentre Plus benefit applicants or customers who are in receipt of food from foodbanks or other community or voluntary organisations. [261459]

Mr. McNulty *[holding answer 6 March 2009]:* This information is not held centrally by DWP.

Members: Correspondence

Steve Webb: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions when he plans to reply to the letter from the hon. Member for Northavon of 28 April 2008, on behalf of Mr. Reg Morris, acknowledged with reference POS(3) 10854/0364. [254293]

Jonathan Shaw *[holding answer 4 February 2009]:* A reply was sent to the hon. Member on 17 March 2009.

Social Security Benefits

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people claimed *(a)* disability benefit and *(b)* jobseeker's allowance in each of the last 10 years. [263682]

Jonathan Shaw: The available information is in the tables.

Disability living allowance and attendance allowance cases in payment

	Disability living allowance	Attendance allowance
August 1999	2,135,100	1,258,600
August 2000	2,213,300	1,262,200
August 2001	2,326,800	1,285,900
August 2002	2,454,340	1,300,090
August 2003	2,573,540	1,336,210
August 2004	2,672,160	1,397,300
August 2005	2,749,480	1,440,090
August 2006	2,814,290	1,484,500
August 2007	2,909,980	1,525,610
August 2008	2,999,650	1,565,000

Notes:
1. August 2002 to August 2008: 100 per cent. Work and Pensions Longitudinal Study (WPLS). Figures are rounded to the nearest 10.
2. There are no data available for disability living allowance and attendance allowance in the WPLS before May 2002. Pre August 2002: 5 per cent. sample data rated up to be consistent with 100 per cent. WPLS totals. Figures are rounded to the nearest 100.
3. Totals show the number of people in receipt of an allowance, and exclude people with entitlement where the payment has been suspended, for example if they are in hospital.
4. Figures may include a small number of cases where the recipient lives abroad.
5. Data are published at www.dwp.gov.uk/asd/tabtool.asp.

Source:
DWP Information Directorate

Jobseeker's allowance claimant count in the last 10 years—seasonally adjusted, Great Britain

	Claimant count
August 1999	1,180,100
August 2000	1,019,700
August 2001	911,900
August 2002	910,100
August 2003	898,500
August 2004	804,600
August 2005	839,800
August 2006	924,800
August 2007	825,200
August 2008	880,400
February 2009	1,349,100

Notes:
1. Data are seasonally adjusted and relates to claimants who are over 18 only.
2. Data have been rounded to the nearest 100.
3. Data are published at https://www.nomisweb.co.uk.

Source:
100 per cent. count of claimants of unemployment-related benefits, Jobcentre Plus Computer Systems.

Social Security Benefits: Disabled

Mr. Hepburn: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people have been in receipt of disability living allowance in *(a)* Jarrow constituency, *(b)* South Tyneside, *(c)* the North East and *(d)* the UK in each year since 1997. [263831]

Jonathan Shaw: The available information is in the table.

Disability living allowance cases in payment

	Jarrow parliamentary constituency	South Tyneside local authority	North East Government office region	Great Britain
August 1997	4,300	8,200	134,000	1,982,900
August 1998	4,400	8,300	139,600	2,073,400
August 1999	4,300	8,200	141,600	2,145,300
August 2000	4,500	8,800	144,900	2,223,800
August 2001	4,800	9,300	151,100	2,337,900
August 2002	5,030	9,280	152,850	2,452,290
August 2003	5,140	9,490	156,120	2,571,470
August 2004	5,200	9,650	157,890	2,669,970
August 2005	5,310	9,780	159,000	2,747,100
August 2006	5,420	10,010	160,810	2,811,890
August 2007	5,580	10,340	165,710	2,907,650
August 2008	5,730	10,660	170,170	2,996,820

Notes:
1. August 2002 to August 2008: 100 per cent. Work and Pensions Longitudinal Study. Figures are rounded to the nearest 10. Some additional disclosure control has also been applied.
2. Pre August 2002: 5 per cent. sample data rated up to be consistent with 100 per cent. WPLS totals. Figures are rounded to the nearest 100. Some additional disclosure control has also been applied.
3. There are no data available for disability living allowance in the WPLS before May 2002.
4. Totals show the number of people in receipt of an allowance, and exclude people with entitlement where the payment has been suspended, for example if they are in hospital.

Sources:
DWP Information Directorate.

State Retirement Pension

Mr. Gauke: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate he has made of the administrative costs of paying the state pension *(a)* weekly and *(b)* monthly. [263954]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The precise information requested is not available.

The cost of making payments to pensioners depends on the payment method they choose. The average costs of each payment method are:

	Cost (£)
Payment into a bank account	0.01
Payment into a Post Office card account	0.80
Payment by cheque	1.79

Source:
Corporate Banking and Methods of Payment.

Making payments less frequently (four weekly, rather than weekly) would appear, on the face of it, to reduce the Department's payment costs as fewer payments would be made each year. It is not possible to say exactly what impact on costs this would have as it would depend on a variety of factors—including customer behaviour and third party charges.

TREASURY

Banks: Finance

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer with reference to his Department's press notice of 19 January 2009 on the Asset Protection Scheme, how performance against commitments to make loans to creditworthy institutions will be monitored; and what mechanisms will be used to report on such performance. [264422]

Mr. Burstow: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the Answer of 11 March 2009, *Official Report*, column 417W, on business: credit, when negotiations with participating banks began; whether the specific and quantified lending commitments will be *(a)* published and *(b)* regularly monitored and reported; what the remit of the lending panel is; when it first met; what data it is monitoring; and if he will make a statement. [264706]

Ian Pearson: On 19 January, the Government announced measures designed to reinforce the stability of the financial system, to increase confidence and capacity to lend, and in turn to support the recovery of the economy. Further information is available at:

http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/press_05_09.htm

These build on measures announced on 8 October last year.

The Government are negotiating quantified lending agreements with the banks participating in the Asset Protection Scheme and extended Credit Guarantee Scheme as announced in January this year. The Chancellor of the Exchequer set out in his statement to Parliament on 26 February that Royal Bank of Scotland has agreed lending agreements with the Government. The Financial Secretary to the Treasury set out in his statement to Parliament on 9 March that Lloyds Banking Group has agreed lending agreements with the Government.

The Government will report to Parliament annually on the delivery of these agreements.

As announced in the 2008 pre-Budge report, the Government have established a new lending panel, which will improve monitoring of lending to households and businesses. The remit of the panel is set out in the 2008 pre-Budget report.

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what assessment he has made of the effect of the Asset Purchase Facility on the monetary value of the *(a)* assets and *(b)* liabilities of pension funds. [264431]

Ian Pearson: Asset purchases undertaken by the Bank of England will increase the flow of money within the economy. This will help to revive the flow of credit within the economy, encourage spending and support economic activity. A prosperous and stable economy is vital for pension funds to meet their obligations.

To the extent that asset purchases by the Bank of England lead to movements in bond yields, this will affect the present value of pension funds liabilities, and also the present value of bonds and other assets held by the fund. The overall effect on an individual fund's financial position will depend on how closely the fund's assets and liabilities are matched in terms of their exposure to interest rate risk. This will vary across funds, reflecting differences in the composition of each fund's assets and liabilities.

Gordon Banks: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the answer of 9 March 2009, *Official Report*, column 100W, on banks, what the Government's principles on remuneration are, apart from the principle of no rewards for failure. [265730]

Ian Pearson: The Government have set out four basic principles to be applied to remuneration policies:

> Rewards for failure are not appropriate.
>
> Bonus payments should be based on long-term sustainable performance.
>
> Bonuses are not just about past performance but are designed to shape future performance and thus should be subject to appropriate claw back.
>
> The regulator is to take bank remuneration policy into account when supervising a bank.

The Government are clear that going forward, remuneration policies must be based on long-term sustainable performance in the interests of shareholders, taking proper account of risk.

Child Tax Credit

Steve Webb: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many and what proportion of tax credit claimants are entitled to the family element of child tax credit only. [264582]

Mr. Timms: Estimates of the number of families with tax credit awards, including those entitled to the family element of child tax credit only are published in table 2.1 of our provisional awards snapshot publication, "Child and Working Tax Credit Statistics, December 2008". The publication is available on the HMRC website at:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/personal-tax-credits/cwtc-dec08.pdf

Steve Webb: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many and what proportion of people claiming child tax credit were under the age of 18 years in each year since its introduction; and how many and what proportion of this group claimed the lone parent element of child tax credit in each of those years. [264659]

Mr. Timms: The information requested is available only at a disproportionate cost.

However, estimates of the number of families in receipt of tax credit, including information on lone-parent families by age bands, are published in table 3.1 of the HMRC snapshot publications, "Child and Working Tax Credit Statistics" as at 4 December of each year. The publications are available on the HMRC website at:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/personal-tax-credits/cwtc-quarterly-stats.htm

Departmental Bank Services

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer with which banks his Department *(a)* holds and *(b)* has held contracts for the provision of financial advice, for the financial year 2008-09. [262748]

Angela Eagle: HM Treasury have contracted with the following banks for the provision of financial advice during the financial year 2008-09:

Citigroup
Credit Suisse
Deutsche Bank
Goldman Sachs
Morgan Stanley.

Departmental Meetings

Michael Fabricant: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what meetings he attended on Wednesday 18 March 2009 between 1.30 pm and 4 pm; and who else was present at those meetings. [265732]

Angela Eagle: Treasury Ministers attend a wide range of meetings as part of carrying out their duties in line with the "Ministerial Code". As was the case with previous Administrations, it is not the Government's practice to provide details of all such meetings.

Departmental Ministerial Policy Advisers

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many full-time equivalent staff in his Department provide assistance to special advisers; and what the cost of employing such staff was in each of the last three years. [251661]

Angela Eagle: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given on 26 November 2008, *Official Report*, column 1891W.

Departmental Visits Abroad

Mr. Hands: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much expenditure was incurred in respect of the overseas visits *(a)* he, *(b)* other Treasury Ministers in his Department and *(c)* officials of his Department undertook in 2008. [265867]

Angela Eagle: I refer the hon. Gentleman to the answer that the Economic Secretary to the Treasury, my hon. Friend the Member for Dudley, South (Ian Pearson), gave to the hon. Member for Upper Bann (David Simpson) on 12 March 2009, *Official Report*, column 718W.

Equitable Life: Compensation

Gregory Barker: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what progress has been made in making compensation payments to Equitable Life policyholders; and if he will make a statement. [265570]

Ian Pearson: Sir John Chadwick has begun the work the Government asked him to undertake on aspects of the ex gratia payments scheme for Equitable Life policyholders announced by the Chief Secretary to the Treasury on 15 January At this stage, it is not possible to determine how long it will take to make payments under the scheme. The Government will keep the House updated and report back on progress at regular intervals.

Income Tax

Mr. Sanders: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will make an assessment of the merits of reducing the basic rate of income tax to 16 per cent. [264513]

Mr. Timms: All taxpayers who pay any income tax at the basic rate would benefit. A reduction in the basic rate would result in a loss of tax revenue which can be approximated from table 1.6 'Direct effects of illustrative tax changes' on the HM Revenue and Customs website at:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/tax_expenditures/table1-6.pdf

The figures exclude any estimate of behavioural response.

There would need to be a corresponding reduction in income tax deducted at source on interest.

Members: Correspondence

Mr. McLoughlin: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the answer of 23 February 2009, *Official Report*, column 322W, on hon. Members: correspondence, when he plans to respond to the letter from the right hon. Member for West Derbyshire of 21 November 2008 on the Derbyshire Building Society. [265526]

Ian Pearson: A reply has been sent to the right hon. Member.

Mr. McLoughlin: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the answer of 23 February 2009, *Official Report*, column 322W, on hon. Members: correspondence, when the Financial Secretary plans to respond to the letter from the right hon. Member for West Derbyshire of November 2008 concerning Kaupthing Bank. [265527]

Ian Pearson: A reply has been sent to the right hon. Member.

Mr. McLoughlin: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the Answer of 23 February 2009, *Official Report*, column 322W, on hon. Members: correspondence, when the Economic Secretary plans to reply to the letter from the right hon. Member for West Derbyshire of 23 October 2008 on the Government's decision to implement a financial support package for the banking industry. [265529]

Ian Pearson: A reply has been sent to the hon. Member.

Mr. McLoughlin: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the Answer of 23 February 2009, *Official Report*, column 322W, on hon. Members: correspondence, when the Economic Secretary plans to respond to the letter from the right hon. Member for West Derbyshire of 23 October 2008 on the merger between the Derbyshire and Nationwide Building Societies. [265530]

Ian Pearson: A reply has been sent to the hon. Member.

Sir Michael Spicer: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer when he plans to reply to the email from the hon. Member for West Worcestershire, dated 4 December 2008, on red diesel fuel. [265578]

Angela Eagle: I have replied to the hon. Member.

Mortgages

Mr. Sanders: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the monetary value of guarantees made in respect of new mortgage lending was in the last six months for which figures are available. [264770]

Ian Pearson: The Government have not provided guarantees in respect of new mortgage lending.

The Government have announced a comprehensive package designed to reinforce the stability of the financial system, to increase confidence and capacity to lend, and in turn to support the recovery of the economy. Details are available at:

http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/press_05_09.htm

Moscow

Mr. Heathcoat-Amory: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) how many visits were made by staff of his Department to Moscow in the financial year 2007-08; [264561]

(2) how many visits were made by staff of his Department to Beijing in the financial year 2007-08. [264564]

Angela Eagle: The Treasury's accounting system does not hold travel information by destination but the Department's travel provider confirmed that staff made three visits to Beijing and one to Moscow in 2007-08. All visits by staff are undertaken in accordance with the Civil Service Code and the Civil Service Management Code.

Revenue and Customs

Jim Cousins: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will establish a new range of contact points for the public for HM Revenue and Customs services in addition to existing helplines, co-located with other local and national information services. [264723]

Mr. Timms: Since December 2007, HMRC has co-located face to face advice services with six Jobcentre Plus branches, and two local authority offices. There are four further co-locations currently planned for 2009, three with local authorities and one with a Jobcentre Plus office. When an HMRC inquiry centre is relocated, the preferred option is to co-locate face to face services with central and local government departments, in line with the wider government service transformation agenda. Customers can also access HMRC information through the Directgov and Business Link websites.

Tax Allowances: Cultural Heritage

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) what the arrangements are for access to each heritage *(a)* property, *(b)* object, *(c)* group and *(d)* collection in respect of which conditional relief from tax has been granted; [263984]

(2) when the database of tax-exempt heritage assets was last updated to include access arrangements; when he expects it next to be updated; and if he will make a statement. [263985]

Mr. Timms: Details of the public access arrangements for land, buildings and chattels granted conditional exemption from tax are shown on a database on the HM Revenue and Customs Heritage website at:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/heritage/

The website was last updated on 21 August 2008 and is expected to be updated again in April 2009.

Tax Credit Office: Costs

Mr. Sanders: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the administration costs of the Tax Credit Office were in each of the last five years. [264511]

Mr. Timms: HM Revenue and Customs delivers tax credits through a number of its business units including tax credit office (TCO). For information relating to the full costs of managing and paying the child and working tax credits, I refer the hon. Member to the annual departmental trust statements published at:

www.hmrc.gov.uk/about/hmrc-dep-acct0708.pdf

and the Comptroller and Auditor General's standard reports available at:

www.nao.org.uk/publications.aspx

TCO staffing costs for the last five years are shown in the following table.

	£ million
2003-04	61.28
2004-05	73.74
2005-06	61.86
2006-07	[1]84.30
2007-08	87.64

[1] Staff costs increased from 2006-07 when operational support staff transferred to TCO.

Taxation: Arms Trade

Sarah Teather: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the *(a)* monetary value and *(b)* revenue to the Exchequer from taxation of British arms exports to Israel was in each of the last five years. [264700]

Mr. Timms: There are no export taxes, duties or levies in force on goods exported from the UK.

The value of exports of military equipment to all destinations is published in the UK's Strategic Export Controls Annual Reports, which are available on the Foreign and Commonwealth Office's website at:

http://www.fco.gov.uk/en/about-the-fco/publications/publications/annual-reports/export-controls1

Taxation: Overpayments

Robert Key: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the *(a)* target time and *(b)* average time taken was for the repayment of overpaid tax by HM Revenue and Customs in the last 12 months. [264574]

Mr. Timms: HMRC do not have a target time specifically for repayments of overpaid tax. HMRC do not hold information on time taken to repay overpaid taxes.

Taxation: Pensioners

Steve Webb: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer with reference to the answer of 11 February 2004, *Official Report*, columns 1489-90W, on pensions (taxation), if he will estimate the number of pensioners paying income tax at the *(a)* higher and *(b)* basic rate in each year since 2001-02; and what percentage of (i) all pensioner taxpayers and (ii) all pensioners these figures represent in each year. [264595]

Ian Pearson: The information requested is in the following tables.

Higher rate taxpayers

	Number of pensioners paying HR income tax (Thousand)	*Proportion of all pensioner taxpayers (Percentage)*	*Proportion of all pensioners (Percentage)*
2001-02	210	4	2
2002-03	220	4	2
2003-04	230	5	2
2003-04	290	6	3
2004-05	300	6	3
2005-06	330	6	3
2006-07	370	6	3
2007-08	210	4	2

Non-higher rate taxpayers

	Number of pensioners paying non-HR income tax (Thousand)	*Proportion of all pensioner taxpayers (Percentage)*	*Proportion of all pensioners (Percentage)*
2001-02	4,570	96	42
2002-03	4,700	96	43
2003-04	4,470	95	41
2003-04	4,830	95	43
2004-05	4,790	94	43
2005-06	5,250	94	46
2006-07	5,420	94	47
2007-08	4,570	96	42

Notes:

1. Figures up to 2006-07 are based on the Survey of Personal Incomes in that year.
2. Figures for 2007-08 are based on the Survey of Personal Incomes in 2006-07 projected forward one year in line with pre-Budget 2008 report.
3. Figures for the number of pensioners paying income tax have been rounded to the nearest 10,000.
4. Pensioners have been defined as men aged 65 and over and women aged 60 and over.
5. All pensioners figures are mid-year population estimates supplied by the Office for National Statistics.

VAT: Clothing

Mr. Oaten: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer when he expects a decision to be taken on the possible inclusion of school uniforms in the list of goods and services on which reduced value added tax rates may be applied in Annex III of Directive 2006/112/EC. [265610]

Mr. Timms: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave him on 20 March 20[illegible]9, *Official Report*, column 1414W.

VAT: Stationery

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) what estimate he has made of the savings which accrued to his Department as a result of the withdrawal of pre-paid envelopes for value added tax returns in the last 12 months; [262724]

(2) how many pre-paid business reply envelopes for value added tax returns were issued in each of the last three years; [262725]

(3) what his estimate is of the number of businesses that used pre-paid business reply envelopes for value added tax returns in each of the last three years. [262726]

Mr. Timms: HMRC stopped issuing pre-paid business reply envelopes (BREs) with VAT returns and assessments (and for most other tax functions) from 1 October, when it introduced its National Direct Debit Service for payments.

HMRC estimates that in the period 1 November 2008 to 28 February 2009, it achieved savings of £1,060,358 as a result of the withdrawal of pre-paid BREs, of which £170,000 related to pre-paid envelopes issued with VAT returns or assessments. It is not possible to disaggregate the savings on VAT returns from those on assessments.

HMRC issued 19,538,704 VAT returns during the last three years, and approximately 47,500 assessments a year, and a business reply envelope would have been included with each up to 30 September 2008.

HMRC does not keep a record of the number of businesses that use pre-paid BREs to submit their VAT returns.

Welfare Tax Credits: Death

Steve Webb: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) what procedure is followed by the Tax Credit Office in the recovery of tax credits paid in respect of claimants who have died; [264650]

(2) how much has been reclaimed from tax credits overpaid to deceased claimants in each year since tax credits were introduced; and what proportion of this sum was *(a)* child tax credit and *(b)* working tax credit; [264651]

(3) what the policy of the Tax Credit Office is on recovery of tax credits overpaid as a consequence of the death of a child included in the claim. [264658]

Mr. Timms: Tax Credit Office has a dedicated team to handle notifications of bereavement. Procedural guidance for HM Revenue and Customs processing staff can be found at:

www.hmrc.gov.uk/manuals/ntcmanual/changes_cofc/ntc0170482.htm

Guidance for Debt Management staff is published at:

www.hmrc.gov.uk/manuals/dmbmanual/DMBM555000.htm

For information about HMRCs approach to recovering tax credits overpayments when a customer has died, I refer the hon. Member to the answer my predecessor, my right hon. Friend the Member for Liverpool Wavertree (Jane Kennedy), gave the hon. Member for Runnymede and Weybridge (Mr. Hammond) on 6 December 2007, *Official Report*, column 1501W.

For information about the amount of overpaid tax credits, attributable to deceased claimants, I refer the hon. Member to the answers my predecessor, my right hon. Friend the Member for Liverpool, Wavertree (Jane Kennedy), gave the hon. Member for Runnymede and Weybridge (Mr. Hammond) on 8 October 2007, *Official Report*, column 244W and on 10 July 2008, *Official Report*, column 1786W. Information for 2007-08 will be available in May 2009.

In order to allow bereaved families more time to notify the Department, HMRC pay child tax credit for up to eight weeks following the death of a child.

Welfare Tax Credits: Overpayments

Steve Webb: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether the Tax Credit Office IT system records the reason for overpayment of tax credit awards. [264652]

Mr. Timms: The tax credits IT system does not have the facility to record the reason(s) why HMRC believe an overpayment has arisen.

Working Families Tax Credit

Mr. Jenkins: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much in working families tax credit a family of two working adults with two children under the age of 15 years would receive in 2008-09 if the combined annual income of the adults was *(a)* £20,000, *(b)* £30,000, *(c)* £40,000, *(d)* £50,000 and *(e)* £60,000. [264530]

Mr. Timms: I refer the hon. Member to page 19 of the HMRC publication "WTC2—Child Tax Credits and Working Tax Credits—A Guide" which is available on the HMRC website at:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/leaflets/wtc2.pdf

Working Tax Credit

Steve Webb: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many recipients of working tax credit do not claim the childcare element. [264597]

Mr. Timms: Latest estimates of the number of tax credit recipients, including those families receiving working tax credits, are available in Table 1.1 of the HMRC provisional awards snapshot publication, "Child and Working Tax Credits Statistics" as at December 2008. Table 2.4 also gives the number of families benefiting from the child care element of working tax credit. The publication is available on the HMRC website at:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/personal-tax-credits/cwtc-dec08.pdf

CHILDREN, SCHOOLS AND FAMILIES

Children: Databases

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many local authorities did not meet the shielding policies deadline for ContactPoint of 13 March 2009. [264634]

Beverley Hughes *[holding answer 19 March 2009]:* We continue to take a prudent and incremental approach to delivering ContactPoint. Local authorities have been doing preparatory work around shielding for several months, which included assessing how much time would be required to undertake initial shielding activity. We asked local authorities to provide a progress update by 13 March including whether they have robust arrangements in place to deal with shielding requests on an ongoing basis.

Two-thirds of local authorities have reported, as part of this progress update, that they have undertaken the required shielding actions. We continue to work closely with local authorities in order to help them to complete this first phase as soon as possible.

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what protocols his Department has put in place for records of details of adopted children on ContactPoint. [264636]

Beverley Hughes *[holding answer 19 March 2009]:* In cases where a child's adoptive arrangement may be at risk or the child may be at risk of significant harm if their whereabouts was identified there is a facility to shield the ContactPoint record, i.e. to hide from view information relating to the whereabouts of the child. Shielding decisions should be made on a case by case basis and it would not be appropriate automatically to shield a ContactPoint record simply because a child was in the process of being adopted or had been adopted.

Children: Protection

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) when he plans to revise Working Together to Safeguard Children; [264378]

(2) when he expects revisions to the framework for serious case reviews to have been made; [264386]

(3) what steps he plans to take together with the Home Secretary and the Secretary of State for Justice to establish explicit strategic priorities for the protection of children and young people; [264397]

(4) what estimate he has made of the cost of implementing Lord Laming's recommendations on safeguarding children; [264635]

(5) with reference to page 65 of The Protection of Children in England: a progress report, HC330, what changes he plans to make to existing practice to ensure that serious case reviews focus on the effective learning of lessons and implementation of recommendations and the timely introduction of changes to protect children; [265237]

(6) with reference to page 16 of The Protection of Children in England: a progress report, HC330, what new statutory targets for safeguarding and child protection he plans to introduce. [265233]

Beverley Hughes *[holding answer 19 March 2009]:* The Government have accepted all the recommendations made by Lord Laming in his recent report, 'The Protection of Children in England: A Progress Report'. These include recommendations relating to the revision of statutory guidance in 'Working Together to Safeguard Children', strengthening the framework for serious case reviews, setting strategic priorities by Government for the protection of children and young people, and establishing new statutory targets for safeguarding and child protection. As confirmed in the Government's immediate response to Lord Laming on 12 March, the Government will publish a detailed action plan in response to all his recommendations by the end of April.

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what guidance his Department provides to local authorities on steps they should take when pupils are found carrying a knife within school premises. [262911]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: Although schools are generally safe places for pupils and staff, the Department has given head teachers a power to search, without consent, any pupil they suspect to be carrying a weapon. This increases the options available to schools, and we issued guidance in May 2007 which includes what to do when an illegal weapon is discovered: confiscating and storing the weapon, informing the police, and delivering the weapon to the police. (The guidance also advised on the existing power, announced in October 2006, to screen pupils at random.) Determining the appropriate sanction to apply is a matter for the head teacher, who has the power to permanently exclude pupils for carrying an offensive weapon, including if this is a first or 'one off' offence.

Departmental Surveys

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families pursuant to the answer of 11 March 2009, *Official Report*, columns 549-50W, on departmental staff surveys, if he will place in the Library a copy of his Department's most recent staff survey results and the subsequent analysis. [265386]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: Staff Survey results for the Department and other government departments are published on the Cabinet Office website

(http://beta.civilservice.gov.uk/about/who/statistics/staff-surveys.aspx).

I have arranged for copies from that website to be placed in the Library of the House.

National Curriculum Tests

Daniel Kawczynski: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what steps he plans to take to improve the results of children who were born in August in Key Stage 1. [264507]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: In September 2008, the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) became statutory for all Ofsted Registered Early Years settings and early years provision in schools. It contains a number of elements, focused around tailoring provision, to help summer born children reach their full potential.

Furthermore, the Secretary of State has asked Sir Jim Rose to undertake a review of the primary curriculum. As part of his remit, Sir Jim will be looking at supporting better transition from EYFS to primary school, and considering personalised learning, both of which have shown to help summer-born children make a better start to school and learning. The final report and recommendations will be published this spring.

Parenting Contracts

James Brokenshire: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) how many parenting contracts under the Education Inspections Act 2006 have been entered into by schools; [263947]

(2) how many parenting orders have been issued under section 98 of the Education and Inspections Act 2006. [263948]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The Department collects and publishes data on the use by local authorities of parenting contracts and parenting orders. Although we do not collect data directly from schools, we do ask local authorities to include data collected from schools in their returns to the Department. Local authorities are not asked to report separately on parenting contracts and parenting orders issued by schools and those they issue themselves.

For the school academic year 2007/08 when the changes under the Education and Inspections Act 2006 came into force, the number of parenting contracts agreed by local authorities and schools with parents to tackle poor behaviour was 2,546.

Use of parenting orders is intended to be a last resort, after local authorities and schools have used a wide range of strategies to address poor behaviour in schools such as voluntary parenting contracts for behaviour. To date, no local authority or school has applied to the courts for an order following a pupil's serious misbehaviour or exclusion from school.

Primary Education

Daniel Kawczynski: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families if he will commission research into the impact on children born in August of the resultant reduction in *(a)* time spent at home with their parents, *(b)* part-time pre-school provision and *(c)* school time in their first year. [264508]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: There is currently no plan to commission research to look at the link between children born in August and the time they spend with their parents, at nursery, or at school. However, the Department has funded a number of projects that have looked at the impact of children's date of birth on their educational performance, and support children to make the transition between Early Years and Primary. These include:

When You Are Born Matters: The Impact of Date of Birth on Child Cognitive Outcomes in England. Institute of Fiscal Studies (October, 2007);

The Effective Pre-School, Primary and Secondary Education project; and,

The National Strategies Communication, Language and Literacy Development programme.

As part of his independent review of the primary curriculum, Sir Jim Rose will be drawing on findings from these projects in his final report, on proposals to allow more choice and flexibility in start dates for children entering school.

Daniel Kawczynski: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families if he will take steps to allow parents of children born in August to move their children out of the cohort to delay their entry into reception class by up to one year. [264601]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The remit for the Independent Review of the Primary Curriculum, asks Sir Jim Rose to consider whether it would be appropriate to allow more choice and flexibility in start dates for children entering school. Ministers will give careful consideration to his final report and recommendations, which are due to be published this spring.

Pupils: Bullying

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many recorded instances of homophobic bullying there were in *(a)* primary and *(b)* secondary schools in each local education authority in each of the last five years; and if he will make a statement. [263893]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: We are unable to provide figures for the number of homophobic bullying incidents in either primary or secondary schools as we do not collect these data centrally.

We intend to introduce a new statutory duty on schools to record all incidents of bullying between pupils later this year, and will specifically consult on whether schools should be obliged to record homophobic bullying incidents and report these incidents to their local authority.

Pupils: Disadvantaged

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what estimate he has made of *(a)* the proportion of children receiving free school meals, *(b)* the proportion of children of the relevant age obtaining five or more A* to C GCSEs, including English and mathematics in 2008 and *(c)* proportion of children receiving free school meals and obtaining five or more A* to C GCSEs, including English and mathematics in 2008; and if he will make a statement. [263599]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The information requested is shown in the following table: this relates to 2008 and to state funded secondary schools (including local authority maintained secondary schools, CTCs and academies).

	Percentage
Percentage of pupils in state funded secondary schools eligible for free school meals[1]	13.1
Percentage of pupils at the end of Key Stage 4 obtaining five or more A* to C GCSEs, including English and mathematics[2]	47.8
Percentage of pupils receiving free school meals and at the end of Key Stage 4 obtaining five or more A* to C GCSEs, including English and mathematics[3]	23.5

[1] The percentage of all pupils in state funded secondary schools known to be eligible for free school meals as at January 2008. Information is taken from SFR 09/2008: Pupil Characteristics and Class Sizes in Maintained Schools in England: January 2008 (Provisional) (Table 2c) which can be found at:
http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000786/index.shtml

[2] The percentage of pupils at the end of Key Stage 4 who achieved five or more A* to C GCSEs, including English and mathematics in 2008. Information is taken from SFR 32/2008 Attainment by Pupil Characteristics, in England 2007/08 (Table 12) which can be found at:
http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000822/index.shtml

[3] The percentage of pupils known to be eligible for free school meals who at the end of Key Stage 4 achieved five or more A* to C GCSEs, including English and mathematics in 2008. Information is taken from SFR 32/2008 Attainment by Pupil Characteristics, in England 2007/08 (Table 12) which can be found at:
http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000822/index.shtml

Special Educational Needs

Mr. Martyn Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many students in England have received a statement of special educational needs for each of the last 10 years. [263883]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The information can be found in Table 3a of the Statistical First Release 'Special Educational Needs in England: January 2008' and can be found at:

> http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000794/index.shtml.

Special Educational Needs: Barnsley

Jeff Ennis: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many students in *(a)* Barnsley and *(b)* Doncaster have received a statement of special educational needs in each of the last 10 years. [264542]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The requested information is shown in the table:

Number of pupils for whom statements of SEN were made for the first time 1997 to 2007—Barnsley and Doncaster local authority area, Yorkshire and the Humber Government office region, and England

	England	*Yorkshire and the Humber*	*Barnsley*	*Doncaster*
1997	35,650	4,050	130	350
1998	36,180	3,580	120	300
1999	35,420	3,840	160	270
2000	33,750	3,770	190	210
2001	32,470	3,130	170	170
2002	30,720	2,870	110	170
2003	28,780	2,550	90	170
2004	25,990	1,910	90	140
2005	24,040	1,990	100	170
2006	22,600	1,830	120	140
2007	23,510	1,830	110	100

Note:
Figures have been rounded to the nearest 10.
Source:
SEN2 Survey

Figures for 2007, which is the latest year for which information is available, are contained within Table 18 of SFR 15/2008: Special Educational Needs in England: January 2008 which can be found at:

> http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000794/index.shtml

Special Educational Needs: National Curriculum Tests

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what estimate he has made of the number of pupils *(a)* in receipt of and *(b)* not in receipt of free school meals who achieved level five in English, mathematics and science at Key Stage 2 in (a) 1997, (b) 2004 and (c) the latest year for which figures are available. [260538]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The requested information is not available for 1997 as prior to 2002 individual pupil characteristic information was not collected. The introduction of the pupil level annual school census (PLASC) in January 2002, which collects such information, meant that from 2002, pupil characteristic data could be matched to attainment data, allowing analyses of different groups of pupils.

The 2004 information are shown as follows:

	Eligible pupils			*Number of pupils achieving level 5*			
	English	*Maths*	*Science*	*English*	*Maths*	*Science*	*Number of pupils achieving level 5 in all three subjects*
Non-FSM	483,573	483,842	483,902	143,011	164,078	223,803	92,266
FSM	105,452	105,537	105,583	11,864	15,074	23,202	5,871
All pupil[1]	592,159	592,516	592,629	155,356	179,703	247,783	98,398

The 2007 information are shown as follows:

	Eligible pupils			*Number of pupils achieving level 5*			
	English	*Maths*	*Science*	*English*	*Maths*	*Science*	*Number of pupils achieving level 5 in all three subjects*
Non-FSM	475,767	475,905	475,904	173,009	167,087	237,385	109,277
FSM	93,197	93,218	93,249	13,989	14,295	24,699	6,787
All pupil[1]	571,345	571,501	571,531	187,438	181,761	262,688	116,267

[1] Includes pupils for which information was not sought or for which information was refused.

The above figures are based on 'final' KS2 data.

The National Curriculum Assessments by Pupil Characteristics, GCSE and Equivalent Attainment and Post-16 Attainment by Pupil Characteristics, in England 2004 can be found in SFR08/2005 at:

http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000564/index.shtml

The National Curriculum Assessments by Pupil Characteristics, GCSE and Equivalent Attainment and Post-16 Attainment by Pupil Characteristics, in England 2006/07 can be found in SFR38/2007 at:

http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000759/index.shtml

However, figures in SFR08/2005 and SFR38/2007 are based on provisional data and do not contain figures for pupils achieving level 5 in English, mathematics and science.

Specialist Schools

Sir John Stanley: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families if he will list the schools in the most recent application round which were refused approval to operate as specialist schools, stating in each case *(a)* the name of the school, *(b)* the specialist status applied for and *(c)* the percentage of students achieving five A* to C grades at GCSE including mathematics and English. [263664]

Jim Knight: The table provides details of the nine schools that applied in the most recent application round which were unsuccessful.

School Name	*Proposed specialism*	*Percentage of students achieving five A*-C grades at GCSE including English and Mathematics*
Kilgarth School	Business and Enterprise	[1]—
The Mailing School	Combined Science and Sports	26
Blessed Robert Johnson Catholic College	Humanities	35
The Causeway School	Humanities	31
The Robert Napier School	Humanities	30
Sheringham Woodfields School	Special Educational Needs	[1]—
St Ann's School	Special Educational Needs	[1]—
The Willoughby School	Special Educational Needs	[1]—
Round Oak School	Special Educational Needs	[1]—

[1] Not applicable – special needs.

Sir John Stanley: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families if he will list the 11 schools in the most recent application round which were approved to operate as specialist schools from September 2009, stating in each case *(a)* the name of the school, *(b)* the specialist status applied to it and *(c)* the percentage of students achieving five A* to C grades at GCSE including mathematics and English. [263665]

Jim Knight: The following table provides details of the 11 successful schools that have been approved in the most recent application round and which will become operational from September 2009.

School name	*Specialist status*	*Percentage of students achieving five GCSE A*-C including English and mathematics*
Oak Lodge School	Arts	[1]—
The Duston School	Combined Business and Enterprise and Science	35
Newman Catholic School	Engineering	32
Bishop's Hatfield Girls' School	Humanities	67
Hutton Church of England Grammar School	Mathematics and Computing	73
Putteridge High School	Mathematics and Computing	44
Branksome School	Science	39
Beaucroft Foundation School	Special Educational Needs	[1]—
Castle Hill School	Special Educational Needs	[1]—
Dee Banks School	Special Educational Needs	[1]—
Methwold High School	Sports	45

[1] Not applicable—special school.

Teenage Pregnancy

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many girls under 16 years old became pregnant in *(a)* England, *(b)* the North East, *(c)* Tees Valley district and *(d)* Middlesbrough, South and East Cleveland constituency in each of the last 10 years. [264415]

Kevin Brennan: I have been asked to reply.

The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the Authority to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated March 2009:

As National Statistician I have been asked to reply to your recent question asking how many women under 16 years became pregnant in (a) England, (b) the North East, (c) Tees Valley district and (d) Middlesbrough South and East Cleveland constituency in each of the last 10 years. (264415)

Available figures are estimates of the number of conceptions that resulted in a live birth and/or stillbirth (a maternity) or a legal termination.

Numbers of conceptions to women aged under 16 in England, the North East Government Office Region (GOR) and the Tees Valley district, for the years 1998- 2007 (the most recent year for which figures are available), are shown in the attached table. Figures for 2007 are provisional.

Information on conceptions is not routinely published for parliamentary constituencies. Hence figures cannot be provided for Middlesbrough South and East Cleveland constituency because of the risk of disclosing individual's information, due to small differences between the parliamentary constituency and local authority boundaries. Figures are instead provided for Middlesbrough UA and Redcar and Cleveland UA for 1998-2007, in the attached table.

Number of conceptions to women aged under 16 by selected area of usual residence, 1998 to 2007

	1998	*1999*	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*
England	7,855	7,408	7,620	7,407	7,395	7,558	7,181	7,473	7,330	7,715
North East GOR	570	499	522	460	460	498	481	481	475	531
Tees Valley District	178	159	150	124	136	165	169	140	148	164
Middlesbrough UA	56	49	39	25	36	47	36	32	33	35
Redcar and Cleveland UA	41	38	37	32	28	28	54	27	23	31

Note:
Figures for 2007 are provisional.

Written Questions: Government Responses

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families when he plans to answer Question *(a)* 243012, *(b)* 243014, *(c)* 243015, *(d)* 243049, *(e)* 243051 and *(f)* 243053 on diabetes and schoolchildren, tabled on 9 December 2008; and what the reasons are for the time taken to answer. [265569]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: PQs 243012, 243014, 243015, 243049, 243051 and 243053 on diabetes and schoolchildren have been answered on 20 March. The reason for the delay was due to an administrative error.

HOME DEPARTMENT

Special Constables

9. **Bob Russell:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what proposals she has to increase the number of recruits from businesses to serve as special constables. [264803]

Mr. Coaker: In August 2008, the Home Secretary announced a three-year, £2.25 million funding programme, for the National Policing Improvement Agency, to increase numbers of special constables in England and Wales, through the establishment of nine regional co-ordinators.

These will utilise and develop further the existing Employer Supported Policing programmes, including ShopWatch.

Class A Drugs

10. **Philip Davies:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what steps her Department is taking to reduce the supply of Class A drugs. [264804]

Mr. Alan Campbell: The importation of drugs is targeted through strengthened border controls, international co-operation, intelligence from a network of overseas liaison officers, and the use of detection technology.

Within the UK, intelligence gathering, the use of new powers such as crack house closure orders, and the seizure of the assets of drug dealers are all used to reduce the supply of drugs.

Neighbourhood Policing Schemes

11. **Mr. Clelland:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what assessment she has made of the effectiveness of neighbourhood policing schemes. [264805]

Mr. Coaker: Thanks to Neighbourhood Policing every community in England and Wales now has its own team dedicated to working with the local community to tackle the issues that matter to local people.

The Policing Pledge reinforces this offer. It guarantees national minimum standards of service, alongside a commitment to making Neighbourhood Policing teams accountable to the public through monthly public meetings and other public consultations.

Child Trafficking

12. **John Barrett:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent steps she has taken to prevent the trafficking of children; and if she will make a statement. [264806]

Mr. Coaker: Alongside robust policing, we are implementing the trafficking convention, improving identification and support to child victims, piloting an assessment tool for practitioners, and introducing a national referral mechanism from April.

Statistics

13. **John Howell:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent discussions she has had with the UK Statistics Authority on the preparation of statistical releases on matters within her Department's responsibility. [264807]

Mr. Woolas: My independent Chief Statistician discusses any relevant professional statistical issues with the National Statistician who advises the UK Statistical Authority on such matters.

Border Security

14. **Andrew Selous:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent assessment she has made of the effectiveness of UK border security arrangements in reducing crime and illegal migration. [264808]

Mr. Woolas: We have taken significant steps to improve border security through the integration of immigration and customs functions in the formation of the UK Border Agency. Legislation, presently in another place, will complete this process.

Increasingly close working between the agency and the police service will further enhance border security.

Online Crime Maps

15. **Mr. Gordon Prentice:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what assessment she has made of the likely effects of online crime maps on levels of criminal activity. [264809]

Mr. Coaker: The provision of local crime maps is designed to strengthen Community Engagement and public confidence by ensuring that the public understand how crime is being tackled in their local area, what the local priorities are, who their local officers are and how they can get involved.

All 43 forces in England and Wales delivered crime mapping by the start of the year, and the NPIA is now evaluating progress—but with a primary focus on ensuring that crime maps deliver for the public.

Antisocial Behaviour

16. **Mr. Fiello:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what assessment she has made of the effectiveness of the mechanisms and powers used to reduce levels of anti-social behaviour. [264810]

Mr. Alan Campbell: Independent reports confirm the effectiveness of ASB tools and powers, including the National Audit Office report that two thirds of people stop committing ASB after a single intervention, rising to nine out of 10 after three.

The British Crime Survey and Audit Commission Survey found that perceptions of ASB as a problem fell between 2003 and 2006.

Identity Information: Cross-Border Travel

17. **Mr. Russell Brown:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what steps she is taking to track the identities of individuals entering and leaving the UK. [264812]

Mr. Woolas: The e-Borders system will allow us to count people in and out of the country by screening all passenger and crew data against watch lists in advance of travel. This will help us to identify those persons, including serious criminals and terrorists, who pose a risk to the UK and take action where appropriate.

These checks make up just one part if Britain's triple ring of security alongside fingerprint visas for three-quarters of the world's population and the roll-out of ID cards for foreign nationals locking them to one identity.

Departmental Spending

18. **Mr. Heppell:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent assessment she has made of the effect of restricting to 1 per cent. the real terms growth of her Department's spending for 2009-10. [264814]

Mr. Woolas: The Home Office budget for 2008-09 is £9.8 billion, and in 2009-10 it will rise to £10.1 billion, which represents real terms growth of 1.5 per cent. A growth in real terms of 1 per cent. would reduce the budget by £54 million.

Domestic Violence Victims

19. **Mrs. Lait:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent assessment she has made of the adequacy of services for victims of domestic violence. [264815]

Mr. Alan Campbell: We continue to improve service provision by extending the network of specialist domestic violence courts, independent domestic violence advisers and multi-agency risk assessment conferences. We also continue to fund helplines supporting victims of domestic violence.

In addition, the Violence Against Women and Girls Consultation includes specific questions about services available for victims of violence.

Trafficking of Women: Sexual Exploitation

20. **Ms Dari Taylor:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what steps she is taking to reduce levels of trafficking of women for sexual exploitation. [264817]

Mr. Alan Campbell: We have in place a comprehensive victim-centred strategy to tackle human trafficking contained within the UK Action Plan, published in March 2008 and updated in July 2008. This contains 85 actions across four key areas of prevention; investigation enforcement and prosecution; assistance and support for adult victims of human trafficking and child trafficking.

Human trafficking is a across-border crime. Internationally, we continue to work with our partners, especially the European Union and the United Nations to increase co-ordination and maintain a robust approach to the trafficking of women.

We recognise also the need for more to be done within the UK to tackle the demand for prostitution, and to this end, we have introduced clauses into the Policing and Crime Bill to criminalise the purchase of sex with a woman who has been trafficked or is controlled for gain.

London Olympics: Security

22. **Mr. Rob Wilson:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what assessment she has made of the level of security preparedness for the London 2012 Olympics. [264819]

Mr. Coaker: I refer the hon. Gentleman to my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State's written statement to the House of 26 February, which sets out the Government's strategy for securing the 2012 Games and the positive progress made on security planning.

S and Marper: DNA Data

Paul Rowen: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what response the Government plans to make to the judgement of the European Court of Human Rights on the retention of DNA data in the case of S and Marper. [264802]

Mr. Alan Campbell: The Home Secretary indicated in her speech to the Intellect Trade Association on 16 December 2008 that we will comply with the judgment.

That remains our position and we will publish a public consultation paper before the summer on implementation of the Court's decision.

Cocaine

Mr. Sarwar: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what steps her Department is taking to reduce the supply of cocaine in the UK. [264818]

Mr. Alan Campbell: The Government's strategy to tackle the supply of all illegal drugs is to bear down on all points in the drug supply chain, to disrupt criminal gangs, stifle drug supply and reduce the harm caused to communities in the UK.

The importation of drugs is targeted through strong border controls, including those operating in drug transit countries, international co-operation, intelligence from a network of overseas liaison officers, and the use of detection technology.

Within the UK, innovative approaches to intelligence gathering, the use of new powers such as crack house closure orders, seizing more assets from drug dealers, and measures to prevent drug dealers from re-establishing their businesses are all used to reduce the supply of drugs. The extension of Neighbourhood Policing is also enabling the police to tackle the drug issues of concern to local communities, providing a visible local response.

Anti-Semitism

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what steps her Department plans to take to monitor and tackle offences related to anti-Semitism; and if she will make a statement. [264610]

Mr. Alan Campbell: From April this year the Home Office will receive data within the annual data requirement which will cover all hate crime. This new system will enable us to identify the number of crimes reported due to an individual being targeted because of their race, religion, sexual orientation or disability, although it is currently not possible to break down the data by the specific ethnicity or religion of the victim. The Association of Chief Police Officers will be publishing shortly a refreshed version of their "Hate Crime: Delivering a Quality Service" which provides good practice examples and tactical guidance to officers dealing with these crimes at the front line.

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent reports she has received on levels of anti-Semitism in each police force area in England and Wales; and if she will make a statement. [264611]

Mr. Alan Campbell: Separate data on levels of anti-Semitism are not centrally collated, although Home Office Ministers have discussed the issue on a regular basis with chief constables and key interest groups.

Asylum: Deportation

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department for which *(a)* countries and *(b)* regions of countries the Government does not carry out forced removals of refused asylum seekers because of conflict or generalised violence which makes it unsafe for them to be returned. [255870]

Jacqui Smith: We do not accept that there is currently any country in the world where it is unsafe for returns to take place on a blanket basis because of conflict or generalised violence. Instead, all cases are considered on their individual merits in accordance with our obligations under the Refugee Convention and the European Convention on Human Rights.

Asylum: Finance

Jim Cousins: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many asylum seekers *(a)* were referred to the National Asylum Support Service and *(b)* exited the National Asylum Support Service in each local authority area in the North East in (i) 2006, (ii) 2007 and (iii) 2008. [264323]

Mr. Woolas *[holding answer 18 March 2009]*: The National Asylum Support Service (NASS) no longer exists, although its functions continue to be exercised by the UK Border Agency.

Information on the number of asylum seekers that have applied for and exited support in each North East local authority area over a period is not collated centrally and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Statistics on the numbers of asylum seekers in receipt of support at the end of the quarter are published in tables 5 and 6 of the quarterly bulletin Control of Immigration; these statistics are broken down by Government office region and local authority.

Copies of these publications are available from the Library of the House and from the Home Office Research, Development and Statistics Directorate website at:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/immigration-asylum-stats.html

Further breakdowns by parliamentary constituency are available from the Library of the House.

Asylum: Palestinians

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many asylum applications her Department has received from *(a)* individuals and *(b)* families from (i) the Palestinian Territories and (ii) the Gaza Strip in each of the last (A) 12 months and (B) five years; and if she will make a statement. [264168]

Mr. Woolas: The requested information is unavailable and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost by examination of individual case records.

However, information on the number of nationals from the Palestinian Territories that have applied for asylum in the United Kingdom between 2004 and 2008, broken down by main applicant and dependants have been provided in the table.

Information on asylum is published annually and quarterly. Statistics for the first quarter of 2009 will be available in May 2009 from the Library of the House and from the Home Office Research, Development and Statistics Directorate website at:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/immigration-asylum-stats.html

Asylum applications[1] received in the United Kingdom, 2004 to 2008, nationals from the Palestinian Territories

		Of whom:	
Year/month	*Total*	*Principal applicant*	*Dependant*
2004			
Total	540	460	80
2005			
Total	445	370	75
2006			
Total	340	260	80
2007^{P}			
Total	480	425	55
2008^{P}			
January	30	30	—
February	35	35	—
March	35	25	10
April	20	20	*
May	20	20	—
June	10	10	—
July	30	25	5
August	30	25	5
September	25	20	5
October	30	30	—
November	25	25	—
December	30	25	*
Total 2008^{P}	320	295	25

[1] Provisional figures rounded to nearest 5, (— = 0, * = 1 or 2). Figures may not sum to the totals shown because of independent rounding.

Borders: Personal Records

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what discussions her Department has had with airline operators on the cost they will incur in modifying systems to comply with the data requirements under the e-Borders programme. [264191]

Mr. Woolas: The e-Borders Programme has engaged with carriers from its inception, and continues to have ongoing consultations with the industry. A regulatory impact assessment was undertaken between August and October 2007, in which carriers had the opportunity to highlight the costs that would fall to them in connection with discharging their e-Borders obligations.

The programme has developed a wide range of methods to enable the carriers to transmit data to the e-Borders system. These have been created to align, as far as possible, with industry standards and current data transmission methods.

This allows carriers to continue to use systems already in use for transmitting data to other countries who collect passenger data, e.g. US and Spain, and has minimised the need to develop new systems.

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what percentage of passenger movements she estimates will utilise full passenger name record data checks in *(a)* 2009, *(b)* 2010, *(c)* 2011, *(d)* 2012, *(e)* 2013 and *(f)* 2014. [264192]

Mr. Woolas: Other passenger information (OPI) is known in the airline industry as passenger name record data and relates to details collected for a carrier's own commercial purposes. It may include information such as passenger's name, address, telephone number, ticketing information and travel itinerary.

There are currently no plans to collect OPI data for every passenger movement; however, it will be collected incrementally over five years to reach a maximum of 100 million passenger movements by the end of December 2013.

Currently, e-Borders obtains and processes advance passenger information (API) provided by carriers. This includes details available from travel documents such as a passport and scheduled departure and arrival information.

The e-Borders Programme remains on track to meet the milestone of capturing 60 per cent. (equivalent of 120 million passenger movements) of all passenger movements by December 2009.

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what estimate she has made of the cost to the public purse of implementing the authority-to-carry element of the e-Borders programme. [264193]

Mr. Woolas: The long-term vision of the UK Border Agency is to establish the capability to automatically deny authority to carry (ATC) at the point of check-in to certain categories of individuals seeking to travel to the UK. The e-Borders programme will provide the ATC capability.

There will be a manual trial period to assess the benefits, impact and costs for the ATC capability. Following this trial, consideration will be given to the funding required.

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what estimate she has made of the cost to the public purse of implementing the passenger name record element of the e-Borders programme. [264194]

Mr. Woolas: The total cost of the other passenger information (OPI) element of the e-Borders contract is £89,025,118.

Departmental Data Protection

Paul Holmes: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many times *(a)* her Department and *(b)* the UK Border Agency lost or misplaced databases containing data on (i) British citizens and (ii) foreign nationals in each year since 1997; and what information relating to how many people was held on each such database. [249017]

Mr. Woolas: Since November 2007, any personal data losses are reported to the Information Commissioner. Home Office data is not available for earlier years.

The Home Office has publicised details of personal data-related incidents notified to the Information Commissioner's Office in 2007-08 in its resource accounts published in August 2008. In the first half of 2008-09 a notification was made to the Information Commissioner regarding the PA Consulting data loss incident.

The Identity and Passport Service has published details of the personal data-related incidents notified to the Information Commissioner's Office in 2007-08 in its annual report and accounts published on 26 June 2008. In the first half of 2008-09 no notifications were made to the Information Commissioner.

The Criminal Records Bureau did not report any notification of loss or mishandling of any personal data to the Information Commissioner's Office for the period 2007-08 or for the first half of 2008-09.

Mr. Vara: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when her Department appointed a senior information risk owner in accordance with the report, Data Handling Procedures in Government and the accompanying document Cross-departmental Actions: Mandatory Minimum Action; when the appointment was made; and what grade the person holds within the Department. [245364]

Mr. Woolas: The senior information risk owner (SIRO) for the Home Office was appointed in April 2005. She is a board level director-general. The role fully accords with the recommendations contained in the report on Data Handling Procedures in Government published in June 2008.

Anne Main: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if she will place in the Library a copy of her Department's IT security hierarchy. [259806]

Mr. Woolas: Information is a key asset to Government and its correct handling is vital to the delivery of public services and to the integrity of HMG. The Security Policy Framework, the Data Handling Report and the National Information Assurance Strategy produced by the Cabinet Office provide a strategic framework for protecting information that Government handle and put in place a set of mandatory measures which Departments must adhere to.

It is not in the interest of the security of the Department, or that of the public, to disclose detailed information pertaining to electronic breaches of security of Department's IT systems. Disclosing such information would enable criminals and those who would attempt to cause disruptive threats to the Department to deduce how to conduct attacks and therefore potentially enhance their capability to carry out such attacks.

Detainees: Children

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many children have been held in immigration removal centres for a period of more than *(a)* two weeks, *(b)* one month, *(c)* two montns and *(d)* six months in 2008; and if she will make a statement. [263892]

Mr. Woolas: The requested information is not held centrally and would be available through the detailed examination of individual case files only at disproportionate cost.

The following table shows the numbers of children detained within the UK Border Agency detention estate solely under Immigration Act powers on a snapshot basis as at the last Saturday of each quarter of 2008, broken down by length of detention.

National Statistics on children detained solely under Immigration Act powers on a snapshot basis are published quarterly. This information is published in tables 9-11 of the Control of Immigration: Quarterly Statistical Summary, United Kingdom bulletins which are available from the Library of the House and from the Home Office's Research, Development and Statistics website at:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/immigration-asylum-stats.html

Children are detained only in the following limited circumstances: most usually, as part of a family group whose detention is considered necessary; exceptionally, when unaccompanied, while alternative care arrangements are made and normally just overnight; to facilitate supervised escort of an unaccompanied child, who is being removed, from his/her normal place of residence to the port where removal will take place—detention occurs only on the day of the planned removal to enable the child to be properly and safely escorted to his/her flight and/or to their destination; and in exceptional circumstances where it can be shown that an ex-foreign national prisoner aged under 18 poses a serious risk to the public and a decision to deport or remove him/her has been taken.

The Government's stated policy on detention of families with children is set out in the 1998 White Paper "Fairer, Faster and Firmer—A Modern Approach to Immigration and Asylum". In all cases there is a presumption in favour of temporary admission or temporary release and all reasonable alternatives to detention are considered before detention is authorised.

Children[1] recorded as being in detention in the United Kingdom solely under Immigration Act powers, by length of detention as at the last Saturday of each quarter in 2008[2, 3]

				Number of children[2]
Length of detention[4, 5]	*29 March*	*28 June*	*27 September*	*27 December*
Seven days or less	10	15	30	5
Eight to 14 days	*	5	*	15
15 to 28 days	5	20	20	15
29 days to less than two months	15	15	5	5
Two months to less than three months	5	—	—	*
Three months to less than four months	—	—	—	—
Four months to less than six months	—	—	—	—
Six months to less than one year	—	—	—	—
One year or more	—	—	—	—
Grand total	35	55	55	40

[1] People recorded as being under 18 on the last Saturday of each quarter. These figures will overstate if any applicants aged 18 or over claim to be younger.
[2] Figures rounded to the nearest 5 (— = 0, * = 1 or 2), may not sum to the totals shown because of independent rounding and exclude persons detained in police cells, Prison Service establishments and those detained under both criminal and immigration powers.
[3] Figures include dependants.
[4] Relates to most recent period of sole detention.
[5] Two months is defined as 61 days; four months is defined as 122 days; six months is defined as 182 days.

Domestic Violence: Cumbria

Mr. Jamie Reed: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many cases of domestic violence in *(a)* Cumbria and *(b)* Copeland constituency have been reported to Cumbria Police in each year since 1997. [263427]

Mr. Alan Campbell: The Home Office has collected the number of recorded domestic violence incidents for police force areas since 2003-04, before that the figures were collated by HMIC.

The figures for Cumbria police force are included in the following table, the data for Copeland constituency are not held centrally.

Recorded DV incidents in Cumbria

	Number
2003-04	4,343
2004-05	4,937
2005-06	4,280
2006-07	4,372
2007-08	4,515

Drugs: Crime

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer of 2 March 2009, *Official Report*, column 1279W, on drugs: crime, for what reasons the police do not record possession offences by drug type for drugs other than cannabis. [262495]

Jacqui Smith: Offence categorisations as used in police recorded crime have always been broader than those used in court proceedings and the detailed returns on cautioning. From 1 April 2004, it was agreed that recorded offences of cannabis possession be separated from other drug possession offences to better monitor the use of police powers to issue cannabis warnings. It has not been considered necessary to record more detailed breakdowns on other drug possession offences as overall detection rates for these offences are high.

Information on court proceedings and cautioning give a good picture of the extent of other drug possession offences that come to the attention of the police by type of drug.

Dual Nationality

Mrs. Gillan: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many holders of British passports hold dual nationality, broken down by other nationality. [264660]

Mr. Malik: This information is not held centrally.

Entry Clearances: South Africa

Rosie Cooper: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the average processing time for family reunion visas where the application has been made from a UK overseas mission in South Africa was in the latest period for which information is available. [261979]

Mr. Woolas: UK Border Agency Customer Service Standards for processing settlement visa applications (which include family reunion applications) are to complete 95 per cent. of applications in not more than 12 weeks (60 working days) and 100 per cent. in not more 120 working days. Processing times for settlement visas at our Visa Application Centre in Pretoria in the last quarter of 2008 were as follows:

Settlement (Percentage)	*Days*
57	5
70	10
81	15
95	30
100	60

Human Trafficking: Children

Margaret Moran: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if she will make it her policy to use biometric identification of children to identify those trafficked into the UK. [250878]

Mr. Woolas: We are issuing identity cards for foreign nationals to children for the same purpose as adults. This is to provide more secure and reliable evidence of children's immigration status and identity. By requiring children to be subject to the biometric registration provisions we are also able to fix their identities. This will help tackle child trafficking, as well as making it harder for those intending to exploit a child's identity, for example, by placing a child into a family they claim to be theirs, for the purposes of fraudulently claiming public funds.

We will request DNA evidence from the guardians or carers who present with unaccompanied asylum seeking children to establish the credibility of claimed relationships in an attempt to stop child trafficking. This evidence or a failure to provide it will form part of the information we send to the police and Children's (social) services where we suspect the child to be a trafficking victim. It can also be used as evidence towards an immigration application.

Illegal Immigrants

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer of 29 January 2009, *Official Report*, column 818W, on illegal immigrants, what research has been *(a)* commissioned and *(b)* carried out by her Department on the likely number of illegal immigrants in the UK since the publication in 2001 of Home Office Online Report 29/05, Sizing the unauthorised (illegal) migrant population in the United Kingdom. [262366]

Jacqui Smith *[holding answer 10 March 2009]:* The Home Office has not commissioned or carried out any further research on the likely number of illegal immigrants in the UK since the Home Office Online Report 29/05, "Sizing the unauthorised (illegal) migrant population in the United Kingdom in 2001" was published in 2005.

We are determined to bear down on illegal immigration both on and after entry to the UK and as part of the Government's 10-point plan for delivery by 2010 over 95 per cent. of non-EEA foreign nationals will be counted in and out of the country. This is part of a sweeping programme of border protection which also includes the global roll-out of fingerprint visas, watch-list checks for all travellers before they arrive or depart from the UK and ID cards for foreign nationals.

Illegal Immigrants: Arrests

Damian Green: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) how many illegal immigrants were arrested in UK Border Agency operations conducted in *(a)* care homes, *(b)* hospitals, *(c)* higher education institutions, *(d)* schools and *(e)* childcare facilities in 2008; [263131]

(2) how many illegal immigrants were arrested in UK Border Agency operations on restaurants in 2008. [263219]

Mr. Woolas: The system on which the details of enforcement operations conducted by the UK Border Agency are recorded categorises the nature of the facility visited into one of several broad groups. Therefore, it is not possible to differentiate between hospitals and care homes without examination of individual records at disproportionate cost, as these are recorded together under one category (along with nursing homes); restaurants and takeaway food outlets are similarly categorised.

In 2008 there were a total of 58 enforcement visits made to hospitals, care homes and nursing homes, as a result of which 96 arrests of immigration offenders were made. In the same period, a total of 12 visits were made to colleges, and 18 immigration offenders were arrested as a result. There were no enforcement visits made to schools or child care facilities in 2008.

In 2008 there were a total of 1,685 enforcement visits made to restaurants and takeaway food outlets, as a result of which 3,168 arrests of immigration offenders were made.

These figures do not constitute part of National Statistics as they are based on internal management information. The information has not been quality assured under National Statistics protocols, and should be treated as provisional and is subject to change.

Illegal Immigrants: Deportation

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what procedures her Department has put in place for the deportation of illegal immigrants; what *(a)* funding and *(b)* other resources her Department has provided for such procedures in the last 12 months; how much on average it cost to deport an illegal immigrant in 2008; how many people are awaiting a decision on deportation from her Department; and to which country the most illegal immigrants have been deported in the last 12 months. [263556]

Mr. Woolas: The procedures the UK Border Agency has in place for the removal and deportation of all categories of immigration offenders are set out in the Enforcement Instructions and Guidance (EIG) manual available to view on the UK Border Agency website via the link below. Procedures for deportation can be found in chapters 11-15; illegal entrants at chapter 47 and those subject to administrative removal at chapters 50 and 51. This is a 'live' document which is subject to constant change.

http://www.ind.homeoffice.gov.uk/policyandlaw/guidance/enforcement/

Appendix A of the UK Border Agency business plan for April 2008-March 2011 contains a table which shows the overall budget allocation and staffing plans for the agency for the current financial year. This document is available to view in the Library of the House and at the following website:

http://www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/sitecontent/documents/aboutus/businessplan/

There are many staff involved, including seconded police officers, in the enforcement process across the UK Border Agency and the funding and other resources in place to support the removals process can not be disaggregated from the overall budget and resources. However, UK Border Agency plans for enforcing the immigrations laws including removing the most harmful first and the additional resources put in place to support enforcement and compliance activities are set out in the enforcement business plan, 'Enforcing the Deal', copies of which are available to view in the Library of the House and at the following web-link:

http://www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/sitecontent/documents/managingourborders/enforcementbusinessplan08_09/enforcementbusinessplan08_09.pdf?view=Binary

The UK Border Agency is not able to provide the average cost of a removal because there are many different factors which may or may not be involved in the cost of a case (such as detention costs, travel costs, and the cost of escorting the individual in question). We are therefore unable to disaggregate the specific costs and any attempt to do so would incur disproportionate cost.

However, the National Audit Office (NAO) gave a breakdown of what it costs to enforce the removal of a failed asylum seeker in appendix 2 of their report "Returning Failed Asylum applicants", published on 19 July 2005. In this they estimated the average cost of an enforced removal as being £11,000. This report has since been superseded by their report "Management of Asylum Applications by the UK Border Agency" which was published on 23 January 2009. This does not give a single average figure for the cost of removal but instead (on page 36 of the report) breaks it down into upper- and lower-end estimates for a range of people in different circumstances (for example, a single undetained adult who is removed after exhausting his/her appeal rights, the cost range given is between £7,900 and £17,000 excluding accommodation and support costs, and between £12,000 and £25,600 including accommodation and support costs). This report is available to view at the following website:

http://www.nao.org.uk/publications/0809/management_of_asylum_appl.aspx

There is no central pool of information on the numbers awaiting a removal/deportation decision on their case and this information could be obtained by the detailed examination of individual case records only at disproportionate cost.

The destination country to which the most number of people were removed or departed voluntarily from the UK in 2008 was France; this includes non-asylum cases refused entry at port (including cases dealt with at juxtaposed controls) and subsequently removed. Excluding such cases, the destination country to which the most number of people were removed or departed voluntarily from the UK in 2008 was India. This is the latest 12 month period for which published statistics are available; the information is provisional.

The Home Office publishes statistics on the number of persons removed and departed voluntarily from the UK, broken down by destination, on a quarterly and annual basis. National Statistics on immigration and asylum are placed in the Library of the House and are available from the Home Office's Research, Development and Statistics website at:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/immigration-asylum-stats.html

Immigration

Mr. Blunkett: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if she will investigate the loss of correspondence regarding the case of Mrs Arwa Alanni, Home Office reference: R1145376 and CTS M17617/8 and the effect of that loss on the time taken to resolve the case; if she will take account of that delay in deciding on the timescale for potential removal action undertaken in the case; and if she will make a statement. [264816]

Mr. Woolas: I will write to the right hon. Gentleman.

Immigration Controls: Freight

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when she plans to launch her Department's consultation on the authority-to-carry scheme. [264188]

Mr. Woolas: The Government have committed to a full consultation period on the introduction of an Authority to Carry Scheme (ATC). This consultation period will be launched in due course following the completion of ongoing development work and initial discussions with stakeholders.

The introduction of an ATC Scheme will only be brought forward for parliamentary approval, once the full 12 week consultation period with all stakeholders has taken place.

Members: Correspondence

Sir Gerald Kaufman: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when she expects to reply to the letter dated 21 January 2009 from the right hon. Member for Manchester, Gorton on the All Party Dance Group. [263654]

Jacqui Smith: I wrote to my right hon. Friend on 16 March 2009.

Police: Translation Services

Damian Green: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) how much her Department spent on reimbursing police forces for translation services in 2008; [263217]

(2) how much her Department spent on reimbursing police forces for the detention of illegal immigrants in 2008. [263218]

Mr. Woolas: The following table sets out the recharge payments made to police forces in the last two financial years. Final costs for 2008-09 are not yet available.

Police detention costs

	£000
2006-07	7,000
2007-08	8,000

The figures above include translation costs. We are unable to split out these costs as they are included in the final invoice received from each force.

Sexual Offences

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what assessment she has made of trends in the extent of under-recording of rape against women over the last 10 years. [260933]

Jacqui Smith: Home Office Counting Rules (HOCR) provide guidance to police forces about how crime reported to the police should be recorded and detected. The HOCR were updated in 2004 to reflect changes made to legislation governing sexual offences in the Sexual Offences Act 2003. This change in recording practice means that direct comparisons between reporting rates over the last 10 years cannot be made.

Sexual Offences: Forensic Science

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what proportion of rape complainants were offered a forensic examination in the last five years, broken down by *(a)* police force area and *(b)* rural/urban areas. [260929]

Jacqui Smith: The Home Office do not collect this information.

Standing Advisory Committees

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer of 23 February 2009, *Official Report*, columns 185-6W, on standing advisory committees, how many current members of her Department's science advisory committee have taken part in projects in the capacity of key researcher. [260042]

Jacqui Smith: The Home Office do not centrally hold information about all the personnel involved in research projects it commissions.

Theft: Motor Vehicles

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many incidents of vehicles being stolen during *(a)* robberies and *(b)* domestic burglaries have been recorded by each police force in each of the last five years. [262389]

Jacqui Smith: The available information is given in the following table. Statistics relating to the number of recorded offences of vehicles stolen during robberies or domestic burglaries are only available for 2007-08.

These data are normally used for management information only and are not subject to the detailed checks that apply for National Statistics. The data are provisional and may be subject to change.

The Policing Green Paper announced that Sir David Normington, Permanent Secretary to the Home Office, would lead a review of the strategic data collection burden placed by the Home Office on police forces in England and Wales. Sir David's report was published on 16 February. As a result, the Home Office propose to cease the collection of data on vehicles stolen during robberies and domestic burglaries during Phase 2 between 1 April 2009 to 31 March 2010.

Recorded offences of vehicles stolen in robberies and domestic burglaries, 2007-08

Police force area	*Stolen during a robbery*	*Stolen during a domestic burglary*
Avon and Somerset	33	335
Bedfordshire	26	248
Cambridgeshire	52	138
Cheshire	23	349
Cleveland	1	27
Cumbria	0	28
Derbyshire	17	285
Devon and Cornwall	6	63
Dorset	4	52
Durham	1	81
Dyfed-Powys	0	25
Essex	79	579
Gloucestershire	5	96
Greater Manchester	627	1,851
Gwent	0	63
Hampshire	23	159
Hertfordshire	16	407
Humberside	n/a	n/a
Kent	37	278
Lancashire	30	338
Leicestershire	20	225
Lincolnshire	2	90
London, City of	0	0
Merseyside	92	783
Metropolitan Police	1,000	2,479
Norfolk	1	16
North Wales	6	63
North Yorkshire	4	201
Northamptonshire	27	310
Northumbria	23	153
Nottinghamshire	47	434
South Wales	n/a	n/a
South Yorkshire	45	605
Staffordshire	32	252
Suffolk	1	43

Recorded offences of vehicles stolen in robberies and domestic burglaries, 2007-08

Police force area	*Stolen during a robbery*	*Stolen during a domestic burglary*
Surrey	5	157
Sussex	0	25
Thames Valley	40	843
Warwickshire	28	173
West Mercia	12	178
West Midlands	377	1,134
West Yorkshire	112	2,113
Wiltshire	4	62
England and Wales	2,858	15,741

n/a = Not available

Vetting

Mark Pritchard: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if she will hold discussions with the Criminal Records Bureau to seek to improve the speed with which checks are undertaken. [264813]

Mr. Malik: The chief executive of the Criminal Records Bureau (CRB) meets regularly with Home Office Ministers to discuss the performance of the agency. The CRB works closely with all its data sources and stakeholders to deliver a fast and effective disclosure service.

DUCHY OF LANCASTER

Birth Certificates

Paul Rowen: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how many birth certificates did not include the name of the child's father in each of the last five years. [264348]

Kevin Brennan: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated March 2009:

As National Statistician I have been asked to reply to your request for information on how many birth certificates did not include the name of the child's father in each of the last five years. (264348)

The table below shows the number of live births in England and Wales that were registered solely by the mother from 2003 to 2007. The latest year for which figures are available is 2007.

Live births registered solely by the mother, England and Wales, 2003-07

	Sole registered live births	*Sole registrations as percentage of all live births*
2003	44,875	7.2
2004	45,372	7.1
2005	45,170	7.0
2006	45,455	6.8
2007	45,701	6.6

Source:
FM1 Birth Statistics no.36, tables 1.1a and 3.9

Cancer: Barnsley

Jeff Ennis: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how many people in *(a)* Barnsley and *(b)* Doncaster have been diagnosed with lung cancer in each of the last 10 years. [264545]

Kevin Brennan: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated March 2009:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your recent Parliamentary Question asking how many people in (a) Barnsley and (b) Doncaster have been diagnosed with lung cancer in each of the last 10 years. [264545]

The latest available figures for newly diagnosed cases of cancer (incidence) are for the year 2006. Numbers of newly diagnosed cases of lung cancer for each year from 1997 to 2006 for (a) Barnsley and (b) Doncaster local authorities are in Table 1.

Table 1: Registrations of newly diagnosed cases of lung cancer[1], persons: Barnsley and Doncaster local authorities, 1997 to 2006

	Barnsley	*Doncaster*
1997	196	232
1998	208	241
1999	171	236
2000	205	264
2001	183	233
2002	169	270
2003	184	256
2004	178	244
2005	189	256
2006	188	267

[1] Lung cancer is coded to C34 in the International Classification of Diseases, Tenth Revision (ICD-10).

Source:
Office for National Statistics

Jeff Ennis: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how many people in *(a)* Barnsley and *(b)* Doncaster have been diagnosed with breast cancer in each of the last 10 years. [264546]

Kevin Brennan: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated March 2009:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your recent Parliamentary Question asking how many people in (a) Barnsley and (b) Doncaster have been diagnosed with breast cancer in each of the last 10 years. (264546)

The latest available figures for newly diagnosed cases of cancer (incidence) are for the year 2006. Numbers of newly diagnosed cases of breast cancer for each year from 1997 to 2006 for (a) Barnsley and (b) Doncaster local authorities are in Table 1.

Table 1: Registrations of newly diagnosed cases of breast cancer[1], persons: Barnsley and Doncaster local authorities, 1997 to 2006

	Barnsley	*Doncaster*
1997	135	193
1998	142	176
1999	160	250
2000	140	225
2001	162	202
2002	149	196
2003	168	202
2004	190	223
2005	204	221
2006	174	228

[1] Breast cancer is coded to C50 in the International Classification of Diseases, Tenth Revision (ICD-10).

Source:
Office for National Statistics.

Children

Mr. Gray: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how many families there were with *(a)* one, *(b)* two, *(c)* three and *(d)* four or more dependent children in each of the last 10 years. [264170]

Kevin Brennan: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated March 2009:

As National Statistician I have been asked to reply to your recent Parliamentary Question asking how many families there were with (a) one, (b) two, (c) three and (d) four or more dependent children in each of the last 10 years. (264170)

Estimates of the number of families with dependent children are available from the Labour Force Survey (LFS). Table 1 shows figures for the UK for the last ten years.

Figures for 2009 are not yet available.

Table 1: Number of families with dependent children in the UK

Thousand

	Number of dependent children in family				
	One	*Two*	*Three*	*Four or more*	*Total*
1997	3,071	2,947	986	319	7,323
1998	3,102	2,976	966	317	7,361
1999	3,135	3,001	932	322	7,389
2000	3,063	2,992	986	303	7,344
2001	3,143	3,003	919	308	7,374
2002	3,170	2,991	927	293	7,381
2003	3,130	3,018	904	298	7,349
2004	3,213	3,031	886	276	7,405
2005	3,378	2,932	883	266	7,458
2006	3,346	2,961	877	272	7,456
2007	3,382	2,941	874	271	7,468
2008	3,432	2,911	878	266	7,488

Source:
Labour force survey household data. April to June quarters, not seasonally adjusted.

Colorectal Cancer

Mr. Jenkins: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how many residents of *(a)* Tamworth, *(b)* Staffordshire and *(c)* England were diagnosed with bowel cancer in each of the last 10 years. [264528]

Kevin Brennan: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated March 2009:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your recent Parliamentary Question asking how many residents of (a) Tamworth, (b) Staffordshire and (c) England were diagnosed with bowel cancer in each of the last 10 years. [264528]

The latest available figures for newly diagnosed cases of cancer (incidence) are for the year 2006. Numbers of newly diagnosed cases of bowel cancer for each year from 1997 to 2006 for (a) Tamworth, (b) Staffordshire and (c) England are in Table 1.

Table 1. Registrations of newly diagnosed cases of bowel cancer[1], persons: Tamworth local authority, Staffordshire county, and England, 1997 to 2006

	1997	*1998*	*1999*	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*
Tamworth	25	39	30	31	35	25	26	30	45	35
Staffordshire	450	537	501	497	472	479	531	518	544	510
England	28,112	28,750	29,058	28,951	28,216	28,218	28,496	29,430	29,945	30,046

[1] Bowel cancer is coded to C18-C20 in the International Classification of Diseases, Tenth Revision (ICD-10).

Source:
Office for National Statistics

Death: Drugs

Mr. Gray: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how many drug-related deaths there were in *(a)* North Wiltshire constituency, *(b)* London and *(c)* England in each year since 2000. [264866]

Kevin Brennan: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated March 2009:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your recent question asking how many drug-related deaths in (a) North Wiltshire constituency, (b) London and (c) England there were in each year since 2000. (264866)

The table attached provides the numbers of deaths for which the underlying cause was drug poisoning, in North Wiltshire parliamentary constituency, London government office region and England, from 2000 to 2007 (the latest year available).

Table 1: Number of deaths from drug poisoning[1], North Wiltshire parliamentary constituency, London government office region and England, 2000 to 2007[2, 3]

Deaths (persons)

	North Wiltshire	*London*	*England*
2000	2	427	2,758
2001	5	428	2,884
2002	5	335	2,624
2003	5	338	2,425
2004	3	342	2,606
2005	5	399	2,589
2006	3	366	2,396
2007	3	341	2,433

[1] Cause of death was defined using the International Classification of Diseases, Ninth Revision (ICD-9) for the year 2000, and Tenth Revision (ICD-10) for 2001 onwards. Deaths were included where the underlying cause was due to drug poisoning (corresponding ICD-9 and ICD-10 codes are shown in Box 1 below).

[2] Based on boundaries as of 2009.

[3] Figures are for deaths registered in each calendar year.

Box 1. International Classification of Diseases, Ninth Revision (ICD-9) and Tenth Revision (ICD-10) codes used to define drug-related poisoning deaths by underlying cause

Description	*ICD-9*	*ICD-10*
Mental and behavioural disorders due to drug use (excluding alcohol and tobacco)	292, 304, 305 2-305.9	F11-F16, F18-F19
Accidental poisoning by drugs, medicaments and biological substances	E850-E858	X40-X44
Intentional self-poisoning by drugs, medicaments and biological substances	E950.0-E950.5	X60-X64
Assault by drugs, medicaments and biological substances	E962.0	X85
Poisoning by drugs, medicaments and biological substances, undetermined intent	E980.0-E980.5	Y10-Y14

Departmental Buildings

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster for how many months each of the unoccupied ministerial residences in Admiralty House has been empty; and how much has been paid to date in *(a)* utility bills and *(b)* council tax in respect of each of those properties over that period. [258123]

Kevin Brennan: One flat has been vacant since 27 June 2007 and the other since 30 June 2006. Along with other shared costs, utility costs are calculated on the basis of a share of those for Admiralty House as a whole and are not held separately for individual flats. For the flat vacated in 2007 council tax to end March 2009 is £1,700 and for the other flat the cost is £3,153.

Departmental Pay

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how much the Cabinet Office has allocated for staff bonuses for staff in *(a)* the Cabinet Office and *(b)* the Prime Minister's Office in 2008-09. [252246]

Mr. Watson: The Prime Minister's Office is an integral part of the Cabinet Office.

The amount of money allocated for non-consolidated variable pay awards for the Cabinet Office, based on performance in 2008-09 is yet to be determined.

Departmental Public Relations

Mr. Ellwood: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how much expenditure was incurred by the Prime Minister's Office in respect of media relations work undertaken between May and August 2007; on what matters such work was undertaken; and if he will make a statement. [265882]

Kevin Brennan: I refer the hon. Member to the answer my hon. Friend the Minister for the Cabinet Office (Mr. Byrne) gave to the right hon. Member for Horsham (Mr. Maude) on 14 January 2009, *Official Report*, column 750W.

Disabled: Barnsley

Jeff Ennis: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how many disabled people have been employed in *(a)* Barnsley, *(b)* Doncaster and *(c)* South Yorkshire in the last 10 years. [264544]

Kevin Brennan: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated March 2009:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question asking how many people registered as disabled have been employed in (a) Barnsley, (b) Doncaster and (c) South Yorkshire in each of the last 10 years. (264544)

The Office for National Statistics (ONS) does not compile estimates of the number of persons registered as disabled who were employed. As an alternative we have provided estimates of the number of persons resident in the areas specified, who identified themselves as having a limiting health problem lasting more than 12 months, and were employed.

These estimates in Table 1 are from the Annual Population Survey (APS) and its predecessor the annual Labour Force Survey (LFS) which follow the International Labour Organisation (ILO) definition of employment. Figures have been provided for periods up to June 2008 which is the latest period for which figures are available.

As these estimates are for a subset of the population in small geographical areas, they are based o[illegible]all sample sizes, and are therefore subject to large margins o[illegible]ty. A guide to the quality of the estimates is given in Tab[illegible]

Table 1: Number of disabled[1] persons in employment resident in Doncaster, Barnsley and South Yorkshire

Thousand

12 months ending	*Doncaster*	*Barnsley*	*South Yorkshire*
February 1999	11	14	63
February 2000	16	14	77
February 2001	13	16	71
February 2002	14	14	79
February 2003	13	16	76
February 2004	12	19	82
March 2005	15	20	89
March 2006	15	18	87
March 2007	15	18	81
March 2008	15	19	85
June 2008[2]	***20	***15	*87

[1] Persons age 16+ who had a limiting health problem lasting more than 12 months.

[2] Coefficients of Variation have been calculated for the latest period as an indication of the quality of the estimates. See Guide to Quality below.

Guide to Quality:

The Coefficient of Variation (CV) indicates the quality of an estimate, the smaller the CV value the higher the quality. The true value is likely to lie within +/- twice the CV—for example, for an estimate of 200 with a CV of 5 per cent., we would expect the population total to be within the range 180-220

Key Coefficient of Variation (CV) (%) Statistical Robustness

* $0 \le CV < 5$ Estimates are considered precise.

** $5 \le CV < 10$ Estimates are considered reasonably precise.

*** $10 \le CV < 20$ Estimates are considered acceptable.

**** $CV \ge 20$ Estimates are considered too unreliable for practical purposes.

Source:

Annual Population Survey and Annual Labour Force Survey.

Disabled: Greater London

Mr. Evennett: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how many people identifying themselves as disabled have been employed in *(a)* the London Borough of Bexley and *(b)* Greater London in each of the last 10 years. [264973]

Kevin Brennan: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated March 2009:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question asking how many people identifying themselves as disabled have been employed in (a) the London Borough of Bexley and (b) Greater London in each of the last 10 years. (264973)

The Office for National Statistics (ONS) compiles estimates of the number of persons resident in the geographical areas specified, who identified themselves as having a limiting health problem lasting more than 12 months, and were employed.

These estimates in Table 1 are from the Annual Population Survey (APS) and its predecessor the annual Labour Force Survey (LFS) and follow the International Labour Organisation (ILO) definition of employment. Figures have been provided for periods up to June 2008 which is the latest period for which figures are available.

As these estimates are for a subset of the population in small geographical areas, they are based on small sample sizes, and are therefore subject to large margins of uncertainty. A guide to the quality of the estimates is given in Table 1.

Table 1. Number of disabled[1] persons in employment resident in Bexley and London

Thousand

12 months ending	*Bexley*	*London*
February 1999	12	301
February 2000	10	340
February 2001	11	345
February 2002	13	363
February 2003	15	386
February 2004	12	354
March 2005	13	355
March 2006	12	371
March 2007	14	384
March 2008	14	354
June 2008	***15	*375

[1] Persons age 16+ who had a limiting health problem lasting more than 12 months.

Note:

Coefficients of Variation have been calculated for the latest period as an indication of the quality of the estimates. See Guide to Quality below.

Guide to Quality:

The Coefficient of Variation (CV) indicates the quality of an estimate, the smaller the CV value the higher the quality. The true value is likely to lie within +/- twice the CV—for example, for an estimate of 200 with a CV of 5 per cent. we would expect the population total to be within the range 180-220

Key Coefficient Statistical Robustness

* 0 ≤ CV<5 Estimates are considered precise
** 5 ≤ CV <10 Estimates are considered reasonably precise
*** 10 ≤ CV <20 Estimates are considered acceptable
**** CV ≥ 20 Estimates are considered too unreliable for practical purposes

Source:

Annual Population Survey/Annual Labour Force Survey

Foreigners

Mr. Ancram: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what estimate he has made of the number of non-EU nationals who have entered the UK since 2004. [265300]

Kevin Brennan: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated March 2009:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to respond to your question concerning how many non-British EU nationals have entered the UK since 2004. (265300)

Official estimates show that there were 640,000 international immigrants of non-British EU citizenship to the UK between 2004 and 2007.

An international migrant is defined as someone who changes their country of usual residence for at least a year so that the country of destination effectively becomes the country of usual residence.

Migration by EU nationals, 2004 to 2007, United Kingdom

Thousand

	European Union[1]	*European Union[1] 15*	*European Union[1] A8*
Inflow			
2004	128	75	53
2005	149	70	76
2006	167	71	92
2007	197	79	112

[1] European Union estimates are for the EU25 (EU15 and A8 groupings plus Malta and Cyprus) from 2004 to 2006, and for the EU27 (EU25 plus Bulgaria and Romania) from 2007. Estimates are also shown separately for the EU15 (Austria, Belgium, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, the Irish Republic, Italy, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Portugal, Spain and Sweden) and the A8 (the Czech Republic. Estonia. Hungary. Latvia. Lithuania. Poland. Slovakia and Slovenia).

Note:

This table is published as table 2.01a on:
http://www.statistics.gov.uk/statbase/Product.asp?vlnk=15053

Source:

International Passenger Survey, Home Office, Irish Central Statistics Office.

Government Departments: ICT

James Brokenshire: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what recent estimate he has made of the number of external access points that exist between Government departments and agencies and external IT networks. [263180]

Mr. Watson: The Cabinet Office provides access to one external IT network from its internal corporate IT network via the Government Secure Intranet (GSI) service. The GSI is an accredited network that enables over 200 Government Departments and agencies to communicate securely with other connected Government organisations. In order to meet the arrangements for connection to the GSI; Departments and agencies must give assurance that they meet relevant security policies and have external access controls in place.

There can be a number of external access points to internal IT networks dependent on the business need of the particular Government Department or agency. Each Department is responsible for setting, implementing, recording and maintaining its own controls where applicable.

Jenny Willott: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what assessment his Department has made of the lifetime cost-effectiveness of *(a)* open source and *(b)* proprietary software for Government IT procurements; and if he will make a statement. [264156]

Mr. Watson: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave to my hon. Friend the Member for Ealing, Acton and Shepherd's Bush (Mr. Slaughter) on 24 February 2009, *Official Report*, columns 592-93W. The Government seek to actively and fairly consider open source solutions alongside proprietary ones in making procurement decisions. The lifetime cost-effectiveness of open source or proprietary software depends on the individual circumstances of the business requirement. It is evaluated by Departments on a case-by-case basis to ensure overall best value for money for the taxpayer.

The Open Source, Open Standards and Re-Use: Government Action Plan is available via the following link at:

http://www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/government_it/open_source.aspx

Copies are also available in the Libraries of the House.

Leukaemia

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how many people diagnosed with leukaemia there are in *(a)* England, *(b)* the North East, *(c)* Tees Valley district and *(d)* Middlesbrough South and East Cleveland constituency. [264407]

Kevin Brennan: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated March 2009:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your recent Parliamentary Question asking how many people diagnosed with leukaemia there are in *(a)* England, *(b)* the North East, *(c)* Tees Valley district and *(d)* Middlesbrough South and East Cleveland constituency [264407]

We do not have an estimate of how many people there are at any one time, but the numbers of new cases in the latest year for which figures are available for are for the year 2006. Numbers of newly diagnosed cases of leukaemia in 2006 in *(a)* England, *(b)* the North East, *(c)* Tees Valley district and *(d)* Middlesbrough South and East Cleveland constituency are in Table 1.

Table 1. Registrations of newly diagnosed cases of leukaemia[1], persons: England, North-east government office region, Tees Valley District[2], and Middlesbrough, South and East Cleveland parliamentary constituency[3], 2006

	Number
England	6,025
North-east	200
Tees Valley	63
Middlesbrough, South and East Cleveland	10

[1] Leukaemia is coded to C91 to C95 in the International Classification of Diseases, Tenth Revision (ICD-10).

[2] Tees Valley is defined as the Hartlepool, Middlesbrough, Redcar and Cleveland, Stockton-on-Tees and Darlington local authorities.

[3] Based on boundaries as of 2007.

Source:
Office for National Statistics.

National Minimum Wage

Mr. Sanders: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what his most recent estimate is of the number of workers receiving below the national minimum wage in each *(a)* region and *(b)* local authority area. [264509]

Kevin Brennan: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated March 2009:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your recent Parliamentary Question to ask what the most recent estimate is of the number of workers receiving below the national minimum wage in each (a) region and (b) local authority area. (264509)

Estimates for the number of jobs paid below the national minimum wage by Local Authority area are not available. However, I attach a table showing the number of jobs earning less than the national minimum wage by Government Office Region.

A guide to measuring low pay and associated articles can be found on the National Statistics website at:

http://www.statistics.gov.uk/StatBase/Product.asp?vlnk=5837

Estimates of UK jobs paid below the national minimum wage by Government office region in 2008

	2008	
Government office region	*Number (thousand)*	*Percentage*
North East	**13	**1.2
North West (including Merseyside)	*27	*1.0
Yorks and Humber	*29	*1.4
East Midlands	*21	*1.2
West Midlands	*27	*1.2
Eastern	*30	*1.2
London	*21	*0.6
South East	*37	*1.0
South West	*23	*1.0
Wales	**16	**1.4
Scotland	*27	*1.1
Northern Ireland	*17	*2.3
All	288	1.1

Guide to quality:
The Coefficient of Variation (CV) indicates the quality of a figure, the smaller the CV value the higher the quality. The true value is likely to lie within +/- twice the CV—for example, for an average of 200 with a CV of 5 per cent. we would expect the population average to be within the range 180 to 220.

Key:
CV <= 5%
* CV > 5% and <= 10%
** CV > 10% and <= 20%

Source:
Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings (ASHE), Office for National Statistics. 2008

Redundancy: Barnsley

Jeff Ennis: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what estimate he has made of the number of people who have been made redundant in *(a)* Barnsley East and Mexborough constituency, *(b)* Barnsley and *(c)* Doncaster in the last six months. [264554]

Kevin Brennan: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated March 2009:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question asking how many people have been made redundant in *(a)* Barnsley East and Mexborough constituency, *(b)* Barnsley and *(c)* Doncaster in the last six months, (264554)

The Office for National Statistics (ONS) compiles labour market statistics for local areas from the annual Labour Force Survey (LFS) and the Annual Population Survey (APS) following International Labour Organisation (ILO) definitions. However, this source does not support analysis of redundancies at these geographic levels.

Small Businesses: Tamworth

Mr. Jenkins: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how many small and medium-sized enterprises are registered in *(a)* Tamworth constituency and *(b)* Staffordshire. [264529]

Kevin Brennan: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated March 2009:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your recent Parliamentary Question concerning what estimate has been made of the number of small to medium- sized enterprises that were registered in (a) Tamworth constituency and (b) Staffordshire. (264529)

Annual statistics on business size and location are available from the ONS release on UK Business: Activity, Size and Location. The table below contains the enterprise counts for 2008.

Count of Businesses 2008

	Employment size band			
	0-49	*50-249*	*250+*	*Total*
Tamworth constituency	3,150	45	15	3,210
Staffordshire county	28,990	370	95	29,455

BUSINESS, ENTERPRISE AND REGULATORY REFORM

Burma: EU External Trade

John Bercow: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what estimate he has made of the volume of trade between Burma and the EU in each of the last three years. [265367]

Mr. Thomas: Eurostat's databases give the following figures for European Union trade in goods with Burma:

Million euros

	EU 27 exports of goods to Burma	*EU 27 imports of goods from Burma*
2006	81	306
2007	164	263
2008	105	184

Million euros

	EU 27 exports of goods to Burma	*EU 27 imports of goods from Burma*
2006	62	73
2007	30	54

Data for trade in services for 2008 are not yet available.

Burma: Overseas Trade

John Bercow: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what the volume of trade between the UK and Burma was in *(a)* 2007 and *(b)* 2008. [265468]

Mr. Thomas: HMRC Overseas Trade Statistics data on recorded trade in goods with Burma are shown in the following table:

£ million

	UK exports of goods to Burma	*UK imports of goods from Burma*
2007	4	28
2008	4	36

ONS data published in the UK Balance of Payments Pink Book 2008 were:

£ million

	UK exports of services to Burma	*UK imports of services from Burma*
2007	34	1

Geographical estimates of trade in services in 2008 are likely to be published on 31 July.

The UK Government discourage trade and investment with Burma. We offer no commercial services to companies wishing to trade with or invest in Burma. British companies who inquire about trade with Burma are informed of the grave political situation, the regime's atrocious record on human rights and the country's dire economic prospects.

Colombia: Overseas Trade

John Bercow: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what the volume of trade between the UK and Colombia was in *(a)* 2007 and *(b)* 2008. [265470]

Mr. Thomas: HMRC Overseas Trade Statistics data on recorded trade in goods with Columbia are shown in the following table:

£ million

	UK exports of goods to Columbia	*UK imports of goods from Columbia*
2007	140	370
2008	156	651

ONS data published in the UK Balance of Payments Pink Book 2008 were:

£ million

	UK exports of services to Columbia	*UK imports of services from Columbia*
2007	70	37

Geographical estimates of trade in services in 2008 are likely to be published on 31 July.

Consumers: Fees and Charges

Richard Burden: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what recent assessment he has made as part of his consumer protection responsibilities of the merits of applying supplies of goods and services variable administration fees for consumers according to method of payment. [264976]

Mr. Thomas: The Government have not made any such assessment. The decision on whether to accept certain payment methods, and whether or not to charge a fee for accepting certain payment methods, is a commercial one for banks and retailers. However, in doing so, they must take account of legal obligations which are relevant to the giving of information about prices. The Consumer Protection from Unfair Trading Regulations 2008 prohibit traders from engaging in unfair commercial practices which harm consumers' economic interests. In broad terms, commercial practices are acts or omissions by a trader directly connected to the supply of products to consumers. The giving of information about prices is one form of commercial practice.

Cost of Living

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what steps his Department is taking to protect consumers from the effects of rises in the price of consumer commodities during the current economic situation. [262923]

Mr. Thomas: The Government take the view that their role is to facilitate competition by promoting open and competitive markets, enforced by strong and independent competition authorities, and empowered consumers, rather than to control directly the price setting behaviour of the firms.

Hence, apart from a limited number of exceptions, no price controls operate in the UK and no restrictions are placed on the prices which business may charge consumers. Retailers are free to set their own prices, but they are required to display them in an unambiguous, easily identifiable way in order to enable consumers to compare prices in different outlets and so obtain the best value for money.

Regulation may be necessary where competition is not working effectively or is not fully developed. Under UK competition law it is the responsibility of the Office of Fair Trading to investigate allegations of anti-competitive behaviour and possible abuses of market power.

Overseas Trade: Western Sahara

Mark Williams: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what advice his Department issues to companies on undertaking business with concerns based in Western Sahara. [262830]

Mr. Thomas: The Government regards the status of Western Sahara as undetermined pending a negotiated outcome providing for the self-determination of the people of Western Sahara. In this respect it continues to support fully the efforts of the UN Secretary-General and his Personal Envoy to the Western Sahara, Christopher Ross, and the negotiation process currently underway.

Sudan: Overseas Trade

John Bercow: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what the volume of trade between the UK and Sudan was in *(a)* 2007 and *(b)* 2008. [265469]

Mr. Thomas: HMRC Overseas Trade Statistics data on recorded trade in goods with Sudan are shown in the following table:

£ million

	UK exports of goods to Sudan	*UK imports of goods from Sudan*
2007	115	21
2008	142	5

ONS data published in the UK Balance of Payments Pink Book 2008 were:

£ million

	UK exports of services to Sudan	*UK imports of services from Sudan*
2007	35	35

Geographical estimates of trade in services in 2008 are likely to be published on 31 July.

United Arab Emirates: Debts

David T.C. Davies: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what estimate he has made of the debt owed to British companies by the government of the United Arab Emirates. [263659]

Mr. Thomas: We have made no estimate of the debt owed to British companies by the Government of the United Arab Emirates.

Uzbekistan: Overseas Trade

John Bercow: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what the volume of trade between the UK and Uzbekistan was in *(a)* 2007 and *(b)* 2008. [265467]

Mr. Thomas: HMRC Overseas Trade Statistics data on recorded trade in goods with Uzbekistan are shown in the following table:

£ million

	UK exports of goods to Uzbekistan	*UK imports of goods from Uzbekistan*
2007	37	42
2008	27	29

ONS data published in the UK Balance of Payments Pink Book 2008 were:

£ million

	UK exports of services to Uzbekistan	*UK imports of services from Uzbekistan*
2007	16	11

Geographical estimates of trade in services in 2008 are likely to be published on 31 July.

INNOVATION, UNIVERSITIES AND SKILLS

Adult Education: Finance

Mr. Clapton: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what assessment he has made of the effects of the withdrawal of funding for equivalent or lower qualifications students taking courses in science, technology, engineering and mathematics subjects on levels of fees for such courses. [263627]

Mr. Lammy: Science, technology, engineering and mathematics subjects continue to attract institutional funding when studied as an equivalent or lower qualification. Therefore, there need be no change in the level of fees charged for these courses as a result of our decision to redistribute some of the funding from those who have already benefited from higher education to first time entrants.

Apprentices

Stephen Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what consideration he is giving to reviewing the period of time available to a college to find a new placement for an apprentice who loses the job to which the apprenticeship is related. [263679]

Mr. Simon: When an apprentice is made redundant, the first option that training providers and the National Apprenticeship Service will explore is finding immediate alternative employment. We recognise that the current economic climate can make it even more challenging to find a new employer place. We have agreed new flexibilities to allow apprentices who cannot find immediate alternative employment to move into full-time further education for up to six months while maintaining their existing apprenticeship framework and maintaining their status as an apprentice. The Learning and Skills Council have advised providers of this new flexibility which allows redundant apprentices to maintain their framework for an extended period while they and their provider seek a new employer.

Departmental Manpower

Justine Greening: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how many *(a)* permanent, *(b)* agency and *(c)* temporary staff on contracts of (i) up to three months, (ii) between three and six months, (iii) between six and 12 months and (iv) 12 months or more there are in each directorate of his Department. [264295]

Mr. Simon: Information on lengths of contract is not held electronically and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost. Permanent staff on fixed term appointments will typically be on contracts of more than 12 months. Temporary staff are on contracts of up to 12 months. Length of contracts for agency workers will vary and depend on business need. The latest information on staff numbers in each directorate employed on a permanent, temporary or agency contract is set out in the following table.

Directorate	*Permanent*	*Agency*	*Temporary*
Business Operations	18	—	—
Change Programme	22	—	1
Finance and Performance	13	—	—
Further Education and Skills Directorate	302	2	2
GO Science	76	—	—
Government Skills	26	—	—
HE Directorate	145	1	—
HR	14	—	1
Innovation Directorate	74	—	—
Private Office	52	5	4
Science and Research	80	—	—
Strategy and Comms	46	1	—

Departmental Recruitment

Justine Greening: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills pursuant to the answer of 11 February 2009, *Official Report*, column 2097W, on departmental recruitment, what estimate he has made of the annual salary cost of *(a)* permanent, *(b)* temporary and *(c)* agency staff recruited by his Department in each year since 2005-06. [264293]

Mr. Simon: The Department was created on 28 June 2007. Since it was established, the estimated annual salary cost of new recruits and agency costs are as follows:

£

	Total new recruits (permanent and temporary)	*Agency*
2007-08[1]	1,074,421	124,296
2008-09	1,365,124	137,402

[1] From 28 June 2007.

Departmental Temporary Employment

Justine Greening: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what his Department's policy is on the renewal of the contracts of *(a)* temporary and *(b)* agency staff. [264294]

Mr. Simon: The recruitment of temporary staff is governed by the Civil Service Commissioners Recruitment Code.

The Department's general policy is to use its own staff to cover any unfilled posts on a temporary basis. Temporary staff are normally only engaged where specific skills or expertise are required. External agency staff are used for short-term placements, unless there are exceptional circumstances.

Education

Mr. Evennett: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what percentage of 18 to 24 year-olds in *(a)* Bexley, *(b)* London and *(c)* England were in full-time education in each year since 1997. [261830]

Mr. Simon: Table 1 shows the number of 18 to 24 year-old Further Education learners in Bexley local authority, London region and England from 2003-04 to 2007-08 by mode of delivery.

Table : Number of 18 to 24 year-old Further Education learners, 2003-04 to 2007-08

Area	*Mode of delivery*	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*
Bexley local authority	Full-time Full-year	610	630	690	740	760
	Full-time Part-year	200	100	100	100	100
	Total	800	800	800	800	800
London region	Full-time Full-year	33,000	34,800	35,500	37,300	38,600
	Full-time Part-year	8,300	7,900	6,900	5,900	5,300
	Total	41,300	42,700	42,400	43,100	43,800
England	Full-time Full-year	161,200	166,800	170,300	186,700	193,100
	Full-time Part-year	47,100	43,000	35,700	30,500	30,100
	Total	208,300	209,800	206,000	217,200	223,300
Other	Full-time Full-year	2,700	2,600	2,400	2,600	2,000
	Full-time Part-year	1,700	1,900	1,400	1,100	1,000
	Total	4,400	4,500	3,700	3,700	3,000
Total (England and other)	Full-time Full-year	164,000	169,400	172,700	189,300	195,900
	Full-time Part-year	48,800	44,900	37,000	31,600	31,200
	Total	212,700	214,300	209,700	220,900	227,100

Source:
Individualised Learner Record

Table 2 shows the number of 18 to 24 year-old Work Based Learning and Train to Gain starts in Bexley local authority, London region and England from 2003-04 to 2007-08.

Table 2: Number of 18 to 24 year-old Work Based Learning and Train to Gain starts, 2003-04 to 2007-08

Area	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*
Bexley Local Authority	300	320	300	370	550
London region	19,700	18,300	17,900	35,600	65,100
England	124,700	102,100	102,800	127,100	160,600
Other	2,600	1,900	1,600	2,400	3,800
Total (England and Other)	127,300	104,000	104,300	129,500	164,400

Notes:
1. Bexley local authority numbers are rounded to the nearest 10, all other numbers are rounded to the nearest 100.
2. Learner numbers are shown for provision funded through the FE budget.
3. Number of starts include Work Based Learning and Train to Gain data.
4. Train to Gain was launched in April 2006, so comparable data do not exist for 2003-04 and 2004-05.
5. The field for delivery mode is not mandatory in the Individualised Learner Record collection for Work Based Learning and Train to Gain. Therefore we have provided starts information for contextual purposes.
6. This table uses programme starts as a measure for comparative purposes. Full-year numbers are a count of the number of starts at any point during the year Learners starting more than one course will appear more than once.
7. Area is based upon the home postcode of the learner. Where the postcode is outside of England, learners are included in the 'Other' category. Where postcode is not known this is also included in the 'Other' category.
Source:
WBL and TtG Individualised Learner Record

Table 3 shows the number of 18 to 24 year-old Higher Education enrolments in Bexley local authority, London region, and England from 1997-98 to 2007-08.

Table 3: Number of 18 to 24 year-old Higher Education enrolments, 1997-98 to 2007-08

Area	*1997-98*	*1998-99*	*1999-2000*	*2000-01*	*2001-02*	*2002-03*	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*
Bexley LA	2,115	2,265	2,215	2,395	2,450	2,655	2,825	2,930	3,035	3,165	3,365
London	93,925	100,370	102,345	107,600	113,710	119,925	123,740	128,330	132,905	138,110	142,200
England	596,530	613,805	623,120	635,105	657,605	683,355	690,870	708,825	731,195	741,265	758,760
Other	135,925	137,260	137,660	140,490	143,590	154,770	165,305	171,895	176,575	182,130	190,135

Table 1: Number of 19 to 24 year-old Higher Education enrolments, 1997-98 to 2007-08

Area	*1997-98*	*1998-99*	*1999-2000*	*2000-01*	*2001-02*	*2002-03*	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*
Total (England and Others)	732,495	731,065	760,780	771,995	801,075	838,130	864,175	880,720	907,765	923,390	948,900

Notes:

1. Figures are on a snapshot basis as at the 1 December and have been rounded to the nearest five.
2. Local Authority, and Government Office Region is defined by full and valid postcodes only.
3. London figures for the 1997-98 academic year refer to Greater London.
4. Students in the 'England' category are defined as domiciled in England.
5. Students in the 'Other' category are defined as studying at English Higher Education Institutions but domiciled outside of England.

Source:

Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA)

Liverpool University

Rosie Cooper: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills (1) if he will assess the effect on access to courses in *(a)* politics, *(b)* communications studies and *(c)* other courses in social and environmental degree subjects in the North West of the decision by the university of Liverpool to cease support for courses in social and environmental studies; and if he will make a statement; [265914]

(2) if he will assess the effectiveness in encouraging political engagement of the parliamentary attachment schemes of *(a)* the School of Politics and Communication Studies of the University of Liverpool and *(b)* other university politics departments. [265916]

Mr. Lammy: Parliament decided in passing the Further and Higher Education Act 1992 that universities should be autonomous and that Ministers should have no role in deciding how individual subjects and courses are funded. This independence is a great strength of our world class sector. But it also means that judgments have to be made by universities themselves in developing their own priorities and sense of mission.

Rosie Cooper: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what recent assessment the Higher Education and Funding Council for England has made of the quality of teaching provided by the School of Politics and Communications Studies at the University of Liverpool; and if he will make a statement. [265915]

Mr. Lammy: The Higher Education Funding Council for England has made no recent assessment of the teaching provided by the School of Politics and Communications Studies at the University of Liverpool.

Unemployed: North East

Jim Cousins: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how many and what percentage of each age group were not in education, employment and training in each local education authority area in the North East region in each of the last five years; and what variation from the average for all English regions each represents. [264724]

Mr. Simon: The tables show the number and percentages of 16 to 18, 19 to 39 and 40 to 59-year-olds not in education, employment or training (NEET) for local authorities in the North East. Figures for 16 to 18-year-olds are from the Client Caseload Information System (CCIS) maintained by Connexions services. Local authority level information is only available from 2006 onwards. NEET figures for 2008 are due to be made available on 26 March.

Details for 19 to 39 and 40 to 59-year-olds are from the Annual Population Survey. These wide age ranges are required to give larger sample sizes for each local authority, giving more robust estimates.

16 to 18-year-olds not in education, employment or training

	NEET			
	Number[1, 2]		*Percentage*	
	2006	*2007*	*2006*	*2007*
County Durham	2,060	1,670	12.9	10.4
Northumberland	980	790	10.0	8.1
Darlington	330	370	6.7	7.5
Stockton-on-Tees	640	590	9.9	9.5
Middlesbrough	870	690	13.7	11.1
Hartlepool	440	300	11.1	8.5
Redcar and Cleveland	610	600	11.9	12.1
Sunderland	1,520	1,260	13.3	12.8
Gateshead	750	640	12.3	10.4
Newcastle	1,120	1,140	9.4	9.3
North Tyneside	780	530	11.4	8.8
South Tyneside	590	510	11.3	10.6
North East	10,300	9,120	11.3	10.0
England	126,190	109,300	7.7	6.7

[1] 16 to 18-year-olds known to be undertaking a gap year, or in custody, are not recorded by Connexions as NEET.

[2] The percentage and number NEET has been adjusted to assume that a proportion of young people whose current activity is not known are NEET.

Source:

Client Caseload Information System (CCIS)

19 to 39-year-olds not in education, employment or training

	NEET									
	Number					Percentage				
19-39	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*
Gateshead	8,000	9,000	10,000	11,000	10,000	15	17	20	22	20
Newcastle upon Tyne	13,000	15,000	15,000	16,000	12,000	16	17	17	17	14
North Tyneside	7,000	8,000	7,000	7,000	8,000	15	14	14	14	15
South Tyneside	9,000	9,000	9,000	9,000	7,000	21	23	22	24	20
Sunderland	16,000	13,000	14,000	11,000	14,000	22	19	19	15	19
Hartlepool	7,000	6,000	5,000	6,000	5,000	25	26	22	23	22
Middlesbrough	10,000	9,000	7,000	7,000	8,000	25	24	19	20	21
Redcar and Cleveland	8,000	6,000	6,000	6,000	7,000	23	18	19	19	21
Stockton-on-Tees	11,000	10,000	11,000	9,000	9,000	22	21	21	17	17
Durham	30,000	25,000	31,000	24,000	18,000	25	19	24	19	14
Darlington	4,000	3,000	4,000	4,000	5,000	13	13	15	15	19
Northumberland	10,000	12,000	11,000	12,000	11,000	14	17	15	17	17
North East	134,000	125,000	130,000	122,000	115,000	20	19	19	18	17
England	2,245,000	2,217,000	2,265,000	2,271,000	2,245,000	16	16	16	16	16

Note:

Academic age 19 was used as a lower bound, which is the respondent's age at the preceding 31 August.

Source:

Annual Population Survey

40 to 59-year-olds not in education, employment or training

	NEET									
	Number					Percentage				
40-59	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*
Gateshead	13,000	13,000	13,000	13,000	13,000	26	27	25	25	24
Newcastle upon Tyne	18,000	18,000	16,000	16,000	17,000	27	28	25	26	26
North Tyneside	12,000	12,000	13,000	13,000	12,000	24	23	23	23	21
South Tyneside	11,000	11,000	11,000	12,000	10,000	30	28	26	28	24
Sunderland	24,000	24,000	22,000	24,000	20,000	30	29	27	29	25
Hartlepool	7,000	7,000	8,000	7,000	7,000	31	30	30	29	28
Middlesbrough	10,000	10,000	11,000	10,000	10,000	28	28	30	28	25
Redcar and Cleveland	12,000	10,000	10,000	10,000	9,000	30	26	25	26	24
Stockton-on-Tees	12,000	11,000	9,000	10,000	12,000	24	22	18	19	23
Durham	40,000	38,000	34,000	33,000	35,000	29	27	24	23	24
Darlington	6,000	5,000	6,000	5,000	5,000	24	20	22	18	18
Northumberland	19,000	20,000	19,000	21,000	16,000	21	21	20	22	17
North East	186,000	180,000	171,000	175,000	164,000	27	26	24	25	23
England	2,627,000	2,617,000	2,557,000	2,612,000	2,591,000	20	20	19	19	19

Source:

Annual Population Survey

Vocational Training: ICT

Dr. Stoate: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what steps he is taking to improve access to IT training in Kent Thameside. [263239]

Mr. Simon: The Government recognise that information communication and technology (ICT) training has a major role to play in helping to deliver our ambition to become a world leader in skills. With regard to ICT user skills, the recent publication "Skills for Life: Changing Lives" outlines how DIUS is considering with partners the development of a national strategy for ICT as a skill for life. More details will be provided shortly when the Informal Adult Learning White Paper is published. Plans for the development of digital skills more widely are being prepared with advice from sector skills councils following publication of "Digital Britain: The Interim Report" in January 2009 and will be presented in the final report to be published by the summer.

With regard to Kent Thameside more specifically, it is recognised that a mismatch between skills and opportunities could be a significant potential barrier to local regeneration. The Kent Thameside Regeneration Framework has a specific objective to raise the standards of learning and skills.

IT training will play a critical part in up-skilling local residents to take advantage of the opportunities that will become available through regeneration. There is a range of projects located in local communities across Kent Thameside aimed at raising the skills of local people. The Gateway Knowledge Alliance is part of a partnership delivering targeted IT provision with Learn IT to unemployed learners in deprived communities. It is also working as part of Employ North Kent on a SEEDA funded initiative. Starting from April 2009, the project will involve jobs-matching and the delivery of suitable courses that have been identified, which could include IT. In Dartford, a new state-of-the-art adult education centre was officially opened in February. The centre includes a new IT suite and aims to allow adults to gain the skills that employers are looking for, particularly during this economic downturn. There has been a big uptake in the number of people taking part in courses for the key employability skills of maths, IT and basic English. In Dartford alone, there has been a 20 per cent. increase in the number of people enrolling on these courses since September.

Young People: Unemployment

Mr. Hollobone: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what his most recent assessment is of the effect of the recession on the number of 18 to 24 year olds who are not in education, employment or training. [264161]

Mr. Simon *[holding answer 17 March 2009]:* Data from the Labour Force Survey (LFS) suggest that the employment rates for 18 to 24-year-olds not in full-time education have fallen slightly faster than for other age groups. However, it is too early to say that young people are or will be disproportionately affected by the current downturn, and the data may be affected by sample size fluctuations.

Over the last year increases in ILO unemployment have been spread quite evenly across different age groups. The claimant count, which tends to be more reliable than the LFS for looking at short-term economic trends, shows that the rise in inflows to job seeker's allowance (JSA) has also been spread evenly by age.

There has been an increase in the percentage of 18 to 24-year-olds not in education, employment or training from 2007 to 2008, from 14.6 per cent. to 15.6 per cent., however due to the small samples involved, this is likely to include some degree of sampling error.

HEALTH

Antidepressants: Children

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many children aged under 16 years old were prescribed anti-depressant medication in *(a)* England, *(b)* the North East, *(c)* Tees Valley district and *(d)* Middlesbrough South and East Cleveland constituency in each of the last five years. [265338]

Ann Keen: This information is not collected centrally.

Arthritis: Waiting Lists

Ms Angela C. Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps his Department is taking in respect of waiting times for follow-up treatment for patients with rheumatoid arthritis. [264764]

Ann Keen: Clinical priority is, and remains, the main determinant of when patients should be treated. We have repeatedly stated that those patients who are in greatest need should continue to be treated first. Good waiting list management is based on treating clinically urgent patients urgently and all other patients in turn chronologically. Working with their lead commissioner, primary care trusts need to ensure they have the necessary capacity in place to support this.

Baby Care Units: Nurses

Mr. Lidington: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the average annual salary is of a neonatal nurse employed by the NHS in England; and if he will make a statement. [265421]

Ann Keen: It is not possible to identify from central data the average annual salary of a neonatal nurse employed by the national health service in England. The role of a neonatal nurse can vary locally and any particular role would need to be job evaluated, based on the demands of the job. From 1 April 2009 under Agenda for Change, the terms and conditions on which neonatal nurses are employed, salaries can range from Band 5 for a newly qualified nurse (£20,710 minimum) to Band 9 for a nurse/midwife consultant higher level (£95,333 maximum).

Dementia

Norman Lamb: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what timetable he has set for implementation of his Department's commitments contained in the National Dementia Strategy. [265719]

Phil Hope: The impact assessment for the National Dementia Strategy assumes implementation of the strategy over a five year period.

The decisions about implementation of the Department's commitments in the National Dementia Strategy will be taken during 2009-10.

Departmental Buildings

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what properties *(a)* his Department, *(b)* its agencies and *(c)* NHS trusts have sold in each of the last five years; and how many have been sold for housing developments. [265117]

Mr. Bradshaw: Details of the larger properties sold by the Department in each of the last five years are provided in the following table. While it will be up to the purchaser to decide on the future use of the properties, information is provided where it is considered the properties may be developed for housing. No properties were sold by the Department's agencies during this period. Information is not held centrally in respect of properties sold by national health service trusts.

Property Sold	*Possible development for housing*
2004-05	
18 Brydon Road, Redditch	—
21/23 Coulter Lane, Burntwood	—
7 Wells Lane Terrace, Cheddleton	—
Land at Mickledale Lane, Bilsthorpe	—
317 Mansfield Road, Nottingham	—
Watling Street Clinic, Bishop Auckland	—
Land at Burnhill Way, Newton Aycliffe	Yes

Property Sold	*Possible development for housing*
Land at Newton Aycliffe Hospital	Yes
Gables and land Winterton, Sedgefield	—
7 Springfield Street, Warrington	—
113 Coldharbour Road, Sherbourne	—
Holsworthy Ambulance Station and Health Centre	—
Part Western Hospital, Crediton	—
Land at Hanham Hall, Hanham	—
Land at Lord Mayor Treloar, Alton	—
10 Gunn Street, Reading	—
Land at Langney, Eastbourne	—
Land at St Ebba's, Epsom	—
St Ebba's Cottage, Epsom	—
Land at Joyce Green, Dartford	—
Warley Lodge, Warley	—
2005-06	
Land at Princess Royal, Telford	—
St. Margarets, Walsall	Yes
St. Crispin's Social Club, Northampton	—
Land at Towers Hospital, Leicester	Yes
1/3 Nightingale Close, Mulbarton	—
High Royd's, Menston	Yes
Killingbeck, Leeds	Yes
Land at Neville Drive, Sedgefield	Yes
30 Windermere Gardens, Gateshead	—
St. Oswald's Hospice, Newcastle	—
New Lodge, Whittingham	—
Middleton Hospital, Ilkley	Yes
10 Mayroyd Avenue, Tolworth	—
47 Gainsborough Road, Epsom	—
Conolly House, Napsbury	Yes
Colvend, Napsbury	—
121 Cranleigh Mead, Cranleigh	—
19 Netherne Lane, Coulsdon	—
24 Park Road, Maidstone	—
40 Park Road, Maidstone	—
46 Park Road, Maidstone	—
2 Brambletye Park Road, Redhill	—
Land at Joyce Green, Dartford	—
Queen Elizabeth Hospital, Banstead	—
Silverlands, Chertsey	—
Bungalow, Woodplace Lane, Coulsdon	—
Glenside, Bristol	—
Part Severalls Hospital Site, Colchester	Yes
Turner Village, Colchester	Yes
Land at St. Mary's Axminster	Yes
Cashes Green Hospital, Stroud	Yes
St. Leonards, Ringwood	Yes
Tiverton District Hospital, Tiverton	Yes
Belmont Hospital, Tiverton	Yes
Cottages 1 to 5, Herrison	—
Lower Farm Buildings, Herrison	—
Sewer Field, Herrison Hanham Hall, Bristol	Yes
Part Countess of Chester, Chester	Yes
Whittingham, Preston	Yes
Winwick Farm, Warrington	Yes
Winwick Social Club, Warrington	—
Land at Lancaster Moor, Lancaster	Yes
Homelands Hospital, Crook	Yes
Killingworth Stores, Killingworth	—
Maiden Law Hospital, Durham	Yes
Part St. Georges Hospital, Morpeth	Yes
Land at Aycliffe Hospital, Newton Aycliffe	Yes
Birney Hill Farm, Ponteland	—
Stannington Children's Hospital, Stannington	Yes
Ashington General Hospital, Ashington	Yes
Part Shotley Bridge Hospital, Consett	Yes
Tindale Crescent, Bishop Auckland	Yes
Hull Maternity Hospital, Hull	Yes
Land at Seacroft Hospital, Leeds	Yes
Part Wharfdale Hospital, Otley	Yes
Land at Springfield, Grimsby	Yes
Scartho Hall, Grimsby	—
Scartho Hall - site opposite, Grimsby	—
Land at Norton Aerodrome, Sheffield	—
Lord Mayor Treloar, Alton	Yes
Park Prewett, Basingstoke	Yes
St Augustines, Chartham	Yes
Mabledon, Dartford	Yes
Alpha House, Droxford	—
Part St Ebbas, Epsom	Yes
Horton Farm, Epsom	—
Retail Centre site, Horton, Epsom	Yes
Part West Park Hospital, Epsom	Yes
Part Coldeast Hospital, Fareham	Yes
Part Knowle Hospital, Wickham	—
Land at St. Francis Hospital, Haywards Heath	Yes
Leybourne Grange, Maidstone	Yes
Linton Hospital, Maidstone	Yes
Part Milford Hospital, Milford	Yes
Land at Royal Earlswood, Redhill	—
Land at Hill House, Rye	Yes

Property Sold	*Possible development for housing*
Sheppey Hospital, Sheppey	Yes
Part Southlands Hospital, Shoreham	Yes
Hazel Farm, Southampton	Yes
Land at St Johns Hospital, Stone	Yes
Part Tatchbury Hospital, Calmore	Yes
Fair Mile Hospital, Cholsey	Yes
Land at Celsea Place, Cholsey	—
Renny Lodge, Newport Pagnell	Yes
Stretton Hall Farmland, Oadby	Yes
Ashover House, Lincoln	—
Carey House, Skegness	—
Derby City Chest Clinic, Derby	—
Barnsley Hall Land, Bromsgrove	Yes
Land at the Limes, Himley	Yes
Part Lea Castle Hospital, Kidderminster	Yes
Ledbury Cottage Hospital, Ledbury	Yes
Smallwood, Redditch	—
Royal Shrewsbury — South	Yes
Land at Chemsley, Solihull	Yes
Land at Middlefield, Knowle	Yes
Land at Bucknall, Bucknall	Yes
2006-07	
11 Edith Road, London	—
Bridge Wharf, London	—
48 Park Road, Maidstone	—
31 Pathfields, Shere	—
40 Princes Road, Redhill	—
42 Princes Road, Redhill	—
9 Princes Road, Redhill	—
Orchard Field, Virginia Water	—
42 Redan Road, Aldershot	—
44 Redan Road, Aldershot	—
Hollywood Lodge, Epsom	—
Eastwood Park, Falfield	—
9 Highbury Villas, Bristol	—
Oakleigh, Plymouth	—
Okehampton Castle Hospital, Okehampton	—
57 Park Road, Loughborough	—
Land at Sedgefield	—
Fieldside, Workington	—
Land at St. Catherine's, Doncaster	Yes
Compton Hospice, Wolverhampton	—
Broseley Hospital, Broseley	—
Wellington Cottage Hospital, Telford	—
Stone House Hospital, Dartford	Yes
St. Margarets Hospital, Epping	Yes
Runwell Hospital, Wickford	Yes
Part Prudhoe Hospital, Prudhoe	Yes
Part Manor Kingsway Hospital, Derby	Yes
Cane Hill Hospital, Coulsdon	Yes
Part Grimsby General Hospital, Grimsby	Yes
St. Clements Social Club, Ipswich	—
Graylingwell Hospital, Chichester	Yes
The Beeches Hospital, Telford	Yes
2007-08	
Queen Elizabeth Hospital, Hackney	Yes
337-339 Hackney Road, Hackney	—
18 Paddington Green, London	—
Eastry Hospital, Eastry	Yes
35 Higher Kingston, Yeovil	—
10 Woodside, Plymouth	—
St. Mary's Hospital, Stannington	Yes
103 Oakwood Drive, Ulverston	—
Sedgefield Hospital, Sedgefield	—
Agricultural land, Winterton	—
Willowburn, Maiden Law Hospital, Lanchester	Yes
112 Northbourne Road, Jarrow	—
140 Hedworth Lane, Jarrow	—
27 Willow Grange, Jarrow	—
Land at South Elmsall, Wakefield	Yes
18 Battlefield Lane, Holbeach	—
Holbeach Hospital, Holbeach	—
Land at Honey Lane, Waltham Abbey	—
Cherry Knowle Hospital, Sunderland	Yes
Part Towers Hospital, Leicester	Yes
2008-09	
10 Houses in Surrey	—
30 Paul Road, Bodmin	—
Land at Cronehills, West Bromwich	—
Laverneo, Grindon	—
Horton House, Epsom	Yes

Departmental ICT

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Health which ICT projects costing more than £1 million his Department has initiated and abandoned before completion in each year since 2002; what costs were incurred in each project; who the main contractor for each was; on what date each was *(a)* commenced and *(b)* abandoned; and if he will make a statement. [264210]

Mr. Bradshaw: No information and communication technology (ICT) projects costing more than £1 million have been initiated and abandoned by the Department since 2002. This includes all ICT projects initiated by the Department's Information Services, NHS Connecting for Health, NHS Choices, the Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency , and the NHS Purchasing and Supply Agency.

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the initial estimated *(a)* cost and *(b)* delivery date for each ICT project initiated by his Department and its predecessor that cost more than £1 million was in each year since 2002. [264211]

Mr. Bradshaw: The initial estimated costs and delivery dates of the information and communication technology (ICT) projects costing over £1 million that were initiated by the Department's Information Services function since 2002 are as follows:

Name of project	*Initial estimated delivery date of project*	*Initial estimated cost of project (£ million)*
DOTP	October 2003	3.165
CSC Transformation	March 2004	9.1
Vista	April 2004	6.9
UNIFY1	September 2005	2.179
SP2 Upgrade	February 2006	0.882
Quarry House LAN	March 2006	3.0
Delphi	June 2006	2.324
The Club	July 2006	1.949
Notes Upgrade	September 2006	1.993
UNIFY2	April 2007	2.404
MEDBEN	February 2008	0.68
BMS	July 2008	10.5
Ref Costs 2008	October 2008	0.875
Delphi 2	January 2009	2.198
UNIFY Enhancement	November 2009	2.057
ACCEA	December 2009	1.5

The initial estimated costs and delivery dates of the ICT projects costing over £1 million that were undertaken by NHS Choices since 2002 are as follows:

Name of project	*Initial estimated delivery date of project*	*Initial estimated cost of project (£ million)*
NHS Choices Technical Build	July 2007	3.7

The initial estimated costs and delivery dates of the ICT projects costing over £1 million that were undertaken by the Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency since 2002 are as follows:

Name of project	*Initial estimated delivery date of project*	*Initial estimated cost of project (£ million)*
Sentinel Pharmacovigilance Casefolders	April 2006	1.342
Sentinel Server Upgrade	January 2009	3.5
Sentinel Component Software Development	June 2009	1.6

The ICT projects undertaken by NHS Connecting for Health are as follows:

Name of project	*Initial estimated delivery date of project*	*Initial estimated cost of project (£ billion)*
National Programme for IT (NPfIT)	—[1]	[2]6.2

[1] NPfIT comprises a number of separate systems and services for which, as a whole, there is no single national completion date.

[2] This is the initial estimated cost of the core contracts. It was included in the estimated cost of the entire programme (£12.453 billion, at 2004-05 prices, including local and other costs) as reported by the National Audit Office in its June 2006 report on NPfIT.

Cost of providing the above information

The cost of obtaining and collating the above information is approx £650. There are ICT elements to some of the business area programmes within the Department (e.g. Influenza Pandemic Preparedness) but the additional cost to obtain and collate this information would be disproportionate and exceed the £750 threshold for answers to parliamentary questions.

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the *(a)* outturn cost and *(b)* completion date of each ICT project initiated by his Department and its predecessor that cost more than £1 million was, in each year since 2002. [264212]

Mr. Bradshaw: The outturn costs and completion dates of information and communication technology projects (ICT) costing over £1 million that were initiated by the Department's Information Services function since 2002 are as follows:

Name of project	*Outturn cost of project (£ million)*	*Completion date of project*
DOTP	3.328	March 2004
CSC Transformation	12.7	December 2004
Vista	6.9	April 2004
UNIFY1	1.989	September 2005
SP2 Upgrade	1.065	March 2007
Quarry House LAN	2.738	June 2007
Delphi	2.261	June 2006
The Club	1.7	March 2007
Notes Upgrade	2.141	August 2008
UNIFY2	2.580	May 2007
MEDBEN	1.093	October 2008
BMS	10.5	July 2008
Ref Costs 2008	1.235	December 2008
Delphi 2	Ongoing	Not yet completed
UNIFY Enhancement	Ongoing	Not yet completed
ACCEA	Ongoing	Not yet completed

The outturn costs and completion dates of the ICT projects costing over £1 million that were undertaken by NHS Choices since 2002 are as follows:

Name of project	*Initial estimated cost of project (£ million)*	*Initial estimated delivery date of project*
NHS Choices Technical Build	4.28	July 2007

The outturn costs and completion dates of the ICT projects costing over £1 million that were undertaken by the Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency since 2002 are as follows:

Name of project	*Outturn cost of project (£ million)*	*Completion date of project*
Sentinel Pharmacovigilance Casefolders	1.587	May 2006
Sentinel Server Upgrade	3.5	January 2009
Sentinel Component Software Development	Ongoing	Not yet completed

The ICT projects undertaken by NHS Connecting for Health are listed as follows:

Name of project	*Outturn cost of project (£ billion)*	*Completion date of project*
National Programme for IT (NPfIT)	6.8[1]	[2]—

[1] The original estimated core contracts cost of £6.2 billion is unchanged. The revised figure of £6.8 billion includes additional functionality. This is included in the cost of the entire programme (£12.656 billion at 2004-05 prices, including local and other costs) as reported by the National Audit Office in its May 2008 report on NPfIT.

[2] NPfIT comprises a number of separate systems and services for which, as a whole, there is no single completion date.

Note:

Cost of providing the above information.

The cost of obtaining and collating the above information is approx £650. There are ICT elements to some of the business area programmes within the Department (e.g. Influenza Pandemic Preparedness) but the additional cost to obtain and collate this information would be disproportionate and exceed the £750 threshold for answers to parliamentary questions.

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Health who the main contractor hired for each ICT project initiated by his Department and its predecessor that cost more than £1 million in each year since 2002 was; and how much has been paid to them in respect of each project to date. [264213]

Mr. Bradshaw: The main contractors for the information and communications technology (ICT) projects costing over £1 million that were initiated by the Department's Information Services function since 2002 are as follows:

Name of project	*Name of main contractor*	*Amount paid to main contractor to date (£ million)*
DOTP	Sapient	1.5
CSC Transformation	CSC	12.7
Vista	Cap Gemini, Ernst & Young	1.6
UNIFY1	No main contractor	n/a
SP2 Upgrade	CSC	1.065
Quarry House LAN	CSC	2.738
Delphi	CSC	1.263
The Club	Xansa (now called Steria)	1.7
Notes Upgrade	CSC	2.141
UNIFY2	Sapient	1.992
MEDBEN	Sapient	0.630
BMS	Sapient	7.4
Ref Costs 2008	Sapient	0.732
Delphi 2	CSC	1.511
UNIFY Enhancement	Sapient	0.298
ACCEA	Sapient	0.571

The main contractors for the ICT projects costing over £1 million that were undertaken by NHS Choices since 2002 are as follows:

Name of project	*Name of main contractor*	*Amount paid to main contractor to date (£ million)*
NHS Choices Technical Build	Various[1]	1.1

[1] There were a number of different suppliers for provision of hosting services, software licences, and hardware etc.

The main contractors for the ICT projects costing over £1 million that were undertaken by the Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency since 2002 are as follows:

Name of project	*Name of main contractor*	*Amount paid to main contractor to date (£ million)*
Sentinel Pharmacovigilance Casefolders	Accenture	1.587
Sentinel Server Upgrade	Accenture	2.754
Sentinel Component Software Development	Accenture	0.095

The core contractors for the National Programme for IT (NPfIT) undertaken by NHS Connecting for Health are as follows:

			£ million
Core contractors	*Category*	*Projected lifetime costs*	*Amount paid to main contractor[1]*
BT	London	1,021	191
Fujitsu	South	1,104	81
CSC (to September 2006 Accenture)	North East	1,035	214
CSC (to September 2006 Accenture)	East	930	200
CSC	North West & West Midlands	1,042	185
BT	Spine	889	585
BT	N3 Network	530	423
Atos Origin	Choose and Book	144	103
	Amount retained by Accenture[2]	110	-49

			£ million
Core contractors	*Category*	*Projected lifetime costs*	*Amount paid to main contractor*[1]
Total		6,805	3,550

[1] Expenditure to 31 March 2008 at 2003-04 prices (year of signature of contracts). The figures up to 31 March 2009 will not be available until the Department's Resource Accounts are compiled later this year.

[2] In 2006, Accenture made arrangements to voluntarily novate the company's contract to another existing supplier under the programme. Of the £179 million Accenture had received to that point the company retained £110 million for work completed. £49 million represents the value, for accounting purposes, of moneys repaid as at 31 March 2008.

Note:

Cost of providing the above information

The cost of obtaining and collating the above information is approx £650. There are ICT elements to some of the business area programmes within the Department (e.g. Influenza Pandemic Preparedness) but the additional cost to obtain and collate this information would be disproportionate and exceed the £750 threshold for answers to parliamentary questions.

Departmental Lost Property

John Mason: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 13 March 2009, *Official Report*, column 702W, on departmental lost property, what the eight miscellaneous items of equipment detailed as lost or stolen from his Department were. [264779]

Mr. Bradshaw *[holding answer 20 March 2009]:* The eight items of departmental property reported as lost or stolen that were categorised as miscellaneous to the answer of 13 March were:

Description	*Number*
Mobile connection 3G card	1
Portable digital dictation machine	1
USB memory sticks	2
Laptop docking station	1
RSA secure ID token for remote authentication	2
LCD monitor	1

The approximate replacement value is £700.

Disabled: Elderly

Norman Lamb: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what his latest estimate is of the number and proportion of people aged 65 years and over with a disability; and how many such people he estimates there will be in *(a)* 2010 and *(b)* 2015. [265767]

Phil Hope: No recent estimate has been made of the number of people aged 65 years and over living with a disability.

Diseases

Justine Greening: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many cases there were of *(a)* mumps, *(b)* rickets, *(c)* whooping cough, *(d)* scarlet fever, *(e)* diphtheria, *(f)* botulism, *(g)* gout, *(h)* impetigo, *(i)* scurvy, *(j)* listeria, *(k)* tuberculosis, *(l)* polio, *(m)* typhus and *(n)* typhoid in each (A) region outside London and (B) primary care trust area inside London in each of the last five years. [265580]

Dawn Primarolo: This information has been placed in the Library. Notifications are collected at a local authority level and strategic health authority level, not at a primary care trust level.

Gosport War Memorial Hospital

Sir Peter Viggers: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will publish the report prepared by Professor Richard Baker on events at Gosport War Memorial Hospital. [264625]

Ann Keen: The report from Professor Baker is not yet in the public domain, and we have to balance the legitimate public interest in openness against the rights of individuals named within the report in respect of personal details relating to them. We consider that there is a legitimate public interest in protecting their rights, at the present time, for those facts not to be disclosed—or at least for them to have a full opportunity to read the report and make their own comments upon it. Performing that assessment and taking all the Freedom of Information and Data Protection Act issues into account, we have concluded that on balance we should not yet issue it.

However, recognising the public interest in this whole issue, we do intend, once the inquests are concluded and the General Medical Council have decided what their action will be, and subject to the appropriate individuals identified in the report's having had a chance to comment, to publish the Baker report, should publication still be relevant—that is to say, it may in the meantime become public knowledge from another official source, such as the proceedings of an inquest.

Health Centres: Kettering

Mr. Hollobone: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the latest timetable is for the establishment of the proposed new GP-led health centre in Kettering. [265725]

Mr. Bradshaw: Northamptonshire Teaching Primary Care Trust successfully opened a general practitioner-led health centre in Corby in December 2008 that is open from 8.00 am to 8.00 pm, 365 days a year. The primary care trust has put on hold plans for other similar services including the one proposed for Kettering, as these will now form part of a wider integrated plan for primary care developing over the coming years.

Health Centres: Nurses

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate he has made of the number of general practitioner practice nurses that will be needed to staff new general practitioner-led health centres. [265664]

Mr. Bradshaw: The precise skill mix is best determined locally by the primary care trust and the appointed local contractors and will depend on the range of services commissioned at the centre. Our guidance to the national health service suggested a general practitioner (GP)-led health centre might have nine practice nurses, and three GPs to reflect the extended hours and walk-in appointments which will predominantly be dealt with by nurses. However there should always be a GP available at all times able to see patients, where appropriate.

Health Services: North East

Jim Cousins: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether he has given approval to the transfer of the Sir Martin Roth Unit at Newcastle General Hospital to Prudhoe; and if he will make a statement. [264725]

Ann Keen: The Sir Martin Roth Unit, formerly based at Newcastle General Hospital, was transferred to Prudhoe Hospital in May 2008. The North East Strategic Health Authority reports that the transfer took place following consultation with service users, parents, carers, stakeholders and staff. A joint Overview and Scrutiny Committee of local authorities agreed to the proposals on 21 September 2007. The transfer of the unit did not require the approval of the Secretary of State for Health, as proposals for the reconfiguration of services are a matter for the national health service locally, working in conjunction with clinicians, patients and other stakeholders.

Health Visitors: Yorkshire and the Humber

Jeff Ennis: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many health visitors were employed by *(a)* Barnsley primary care trust and *(b)* Doncaster primary care trust in each of the last 10 years. [264549]

Ann Keen: The information is not available in the format requested. However, the following table shows the number of health visitors in each specified organisation as at 30 September in each specified year from 2001.

	Barnsley primary care trust (PCT)	*Doncaster PCT*
2001	n/a	96
2002	53	92
2003	65	87
2004	69	94
2005	67	97
2006	60	87
2007	52	92

Notes:
1. n/a denotes not available. Barnsley PCT was formed in 2002 from a merger of Eastern Barnsley primary care group (PCG), Barnsley West PCG and Barnsley Community and Priority Services NHS Trust. It is impossible to accurately map figures for these predecessor organisations.
2. Doncaster PCT was created on 1 October 2006 from a complete merger of Doncaster Central PCT, Doncaster East PCT and Doncaster West PCT. It is impossible to accurately map figures for these predecessor organisations prior to 2001.

Source:
The Information Centre for health and social care.

Hospitals: Admissions

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many patients were admitted to NHS hospitals in *(a)* Essex and *(b)* England in each of the last five years. [264948]

Mr. Bradshaw: The number of patients admitted to national health service hospitals in Essex and England in each of the last five years is shown in the following table.

Count of finished admission episodes in Essex and England, 2003-04 to 2007-08

	Essex	*England*
2003-04	342,596	11,809,017
2004-05	350,506	12,101,986
2005-06	371,713	12,678,628
2006-07	374,850	12,976,273
2007-08	399,921	13,479,828

Notes:
1. The data provided are the number of finished admission episodes for primary care trusts in Essex and for England for the years 2003-04 to 2007-08.
2. The data provided include activity in English NHS hospitals and English NHS commissioned activity in the independent sector.
3. The number of finished admission episodes is not the same as the number of patients admitted as a patient may be admitted more than once.

Source:
Hospital Episode Statistics (HES), the NHS information centre for health and social care.

Hospitals: Infectious Diseases

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment his Department has made of the effectiveness of personal antimicrobial products used *(a)* before entry to hospital for elective patients and *(b)* during hospital stays in combating health care-acquired infections; and if he will make a statement. [264890]

Ann Keen: The Department has not undertaken any work on the efficacy of personal antimicrobial products before entry to hospital for elective patients or during stays in hospital and is not aware of any evidence that these products offer advantages over materials supplied to patients by the national health service.

Our strategy "Clean Safe Care' draws together the measures required to control infections. Generally, normal soap and toiletries are adequate for patients' personal hygiene during their hospital stay, and hospitals will provide special soap and shampoo to prevent bacterial infections as necessary. The decision to provide patients with antimicrobial soap and shampoo is based on local infection prevention and control policies.

Incontinence: Medical Equipment

Mr. Oaten: To ask the Secretary of State for Health when he plans to publish the consultation document on Part IX of the Drug Tariff. [265881]

Phil Hope: We have no plans to consult further. We will announce the new arrangements for the provision of stoma and urology appliances in due course, at which time we will publish the summary of the responses to the last consultation.

Injuries: Offensive Weapons

Justine Greening: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many people aged *(a)* under 16, *(b)* between 16 and 18, *(c)* between 19 and 25, *(d)* between 26 and 35, *(e)* between 36 and 50 and *(f)* over 50 years were admitted to hospital in each (i) region and (ii) primary care trust area in London due to assault by a (A) sharp and (B) blunt object in each of the last five years; and how many such people required (1) emergency care and (2) intensive care as a result of being assaulted by a (x) sharp object and (y) blunt object in each of those years. [265581]

Dawn Primarolo: Information has been provided on the age groupings 19 to 25 rather than 18 to 25 (in order to avoid double counting). The data have been broken down by strategic health authority (SHA) of residence and then a further breakdown of individual primary care trusts (PCTs) in London has been provided. As well as this, extra tables showing emergency admissions to hospitals have been provided, as this is the closest thing we can provide to emergency care. Hospital episode statistics datasets are not able to determine whether admissions required intensive care or not.

In 2006-07 SHAs were reconfigured, with 28 SHAs merging into 10. Due to this, data for 2006-07 and 2007-08 are based on the new configuration.

Tables showing a "Count of admissions and emergency admissions by SHA and London PCT of residences broken down by age where there is an external cause of assault by sharp object (X99) and assault by blunt object (Y00) in 2003-04 to 2007-08", have been placed in the Library.

It should be noted that the number of admissions do not represent the number of patients as someone may have been admitted more than once.

Learning Disability: Care Homes

Norman Lamb: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much is planned to be spent by social services on residential care for people with a learning disability in 2008-09 and 2009-10. [265772]

Phil Hope: The information requested is not held centrally.

Malnutrition

Justine Greening: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many *(a)* patients and *(b)* children under 10 years old were admitted to hospital in each (i) region outside London and (ii) primary care trust area inside London as a result of malnutrition in each of the last five years. [265579]

Dawn Primarolo: The total admissions to hospital where there was a primary diagnosis of malnutrition broken down by strategic health authority (SHA) of treatment from 2003-04 to 2007-08 are shown in the following tables.

Activity in English national health service hospitals and English NHS commissioned activity in the independent sector

		Admissions where there was a primary diagnosis of malnutrition	
		2007-08	2006-07
	Total (England)	391	362
Q30	North East Strategic Health Authority	18	27
Q31	North West Strategic Health Authority	50	36
Q32	Yorkshire and the Humber Strategic Health Authority	39	45
Q33	East Midlands Strategic Health Authority	31	34
Q34	West Midlands Strategic Health Authority	59	56
Q35	East of England Strategic Health Authority	33	32
Q36	London Strategic Health Authority	52	45
Q37	South East Coast Strategic Health Authority	25	19
Q38	South Central Strategic Health Authority	36	27
Q39	South West Strategic Health Authority	48	41

Total admissions to hospital where there was a primary diagnosis of malnutrition broken down by strategic health authority (SHA) of treatment in 2005-06 to 2003-04: Activity in English NHS hospitals and English NHS commissioned activity in the independent sector

	Admissions where there was a primary diagnosis of malnutrition		
	2005-06	2004-05	2003-04
Total (England)	304	261	256
Norfolk, Suffolk and Cambridgeshire Strategic HA	14	12	9
Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire Strategic HA	*	*	*
Essex Strategic HA	10	8	*
North West London Strategic HA	11	7	7
North Central London Strategic HA	7	6	*
North East London Strategic HA	11	13	8
South East London Strategic HA	12	*	16
South West London Strategic HA	*	14	6
Northumberland, Tyne and Wear Strategic HA	11	7	10
County Durham and Tees Valley Strategic HA	9	6	*
North and East Yorkshire and Northern Lincolnshire Strategic HA	*	*	8
West Yorkshire Strategic HA	9	6	7
Cumbria and Lancashire Strategic HA	9	9	9
Greater Manchester Strategic HA	12	14	20
Cheshire and Merseyside Strategic HA	16	9	18
Thames Valley Strategic HA	16	11	9
Hampshire and Isle of Wight Strategic HA	10	18	10
Kent and Medway Strategic HA	*	*	10
Surrey and Sussex Strategic HA	13	13	7
Avon, Gloucestershire and Wiltshire Strategic HA	15	9	22
South West Peninsula Strategic HA	22	21	12

Total admissions to hospital where there was a primary diagnosis of malnutrition broken down by strategic health authority (SHA) of treatment in 2005-06 to 2003-04: Activity in English NHS hospitals and English NHS commissioned activity in the independent sector

	Admissions where there was a primary diagnosis of malnutrition		
	2005-06	*2004-05*	*2003-04*
Dorset and Somerset Strategic HA	*	7	8
South Yorkshire Strategic HA	22	8	7
Trent Strategic HA	14	9	9
Leicestershire, Northamptonshire and Rutland Strategic HA	10	*	*
Shropshire and Staffordshire Strategic HA	6	19	8
Birmingham and the Black Country Strategic HA	31	18	14
West Midlands South Strategic HA	8	*	*

Total admissions to hospital where there was a primary diagnosis of malnutrition broken down by age group from 2003-04 to 2007-08: Activity in English NHS hospitals and English NHS commissioned activity in the independent sector

	Admissions where there was a primary diagnosis of malnutrition		
	Under 10	*10 and over*	*Unknown*
2007-08	25	366	[1]—
2006-07	19	342	1
2005-06	15	289	[1]—
2004-05	12	249	[1]—
2003-04	14	242	[1]—

[1] No data available.

Medical Records

Dr. Murrison: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much was spent by each healthcare trust on sending patient medical records by taxi in each of the last five years; and if he will make a statement. [265962]

Mr. Bradshaw: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given on 12 January 2009, *Official Report*, column 162W.

Mentally Ill: Children

Sandra Gidley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many prescriptions for *(a)* antidepressants and *(b)* antipsychotic drugs of each type have been made in respect of under 18-year-olds of each sex and age in each of the last five years. [264914]

Ann Keen: This information is not collected centrally.

Midwives

Mr. Lidington: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many midwives have become fully qualified in England in each year of the last 10 years. [265417]

Ann Keen: This information is not collected centrally.

NHS: Finance

Andrew George: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether any arrangements are in place to assist trusts with budget deficits to bring forward capital investment proposals. [265431]

Mr. Bradshaw *[holding answer 20 March 2009]*: There were 17 NHS trusts designated financially challenged in 2006-07 (financially challenged trusts (FCTs)). Long-term financial recovery plans were drawn up for these NHS trusts with the aim of returning them to financial balance while maintaining and improving services to patients. 10 of these trusts have agreed a realistic profile for surpluses going forward and repayment of their historic debt within five years and were no longer therefore designated as FCTs at the beginning of the 2008-09 financial year. One of these trusts was Royal Cornwall hospitals NHS trust.

Capital investment schemes can form part of the recovery plan at FCTs as they can deliver cost efficiency savings at the same time as improvements in patient care. In exceptional circumstances, where a trust urgently requires a level of investment that it cannot afford from its depreciation or from affordable borrowing from the Department, it can receive an exceptional allocation of capital from the Department (referred to as exceptional Public Dividend Capital (PDC)).

At Royal Cornwall hospitals NHS the Department has recently agreed to fund two capital schemes from exceptional Public Dividend Capital: new operating theatres at St. Michael's hospital (total £5.8 million); and £3.8 million to create a 'central hub' for sexual health services on the Royal Cornwall hospital site.

Andrew George: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what capital project funding is available to *(a)* primary care and *(b)* acute trusts for (i) substantial and (ii) large capital investment projects. [265432]

Mr. Bradshaw *[holding answer 20 March 2009]*: Both public capital and private finance through the private finance initiative (PFI) and NHS Local Improvement Finance Trust (LIFT) (for acute trusts and the primary care estate respectively) is available for both small and large scale capital investment projects.

Information on the amounts of public capital resources so far allocated to strategic health authorities (SHAs), NHS trusts and primary care trusts in 2008-09 has been placed in the Library.

The allocations data provided show the total capital resources allocated up to the end of Quarter 3 (December 2008). Allocations include capital funding for locally prioritised capital expenditure and programme capital for centrally announced initiatives and reflect adjustments for capital grants to third parties.

Some organisations are showing a negative capital allocation. Negative allocations can arise where there are planned asset disposals and the selling organisation does not plan to reinvest the total value of the disposal in capital assets in the selling organisation's books in the year of disposal.

From resources of £5.6 billion and £4.8 billion of public capital for the NHS announced in the pre-Budget report (November 2008) for 2009-10 and 2010-11 respectively, allocations for these years are currently being set as part of NHS trusts' and PCTs' financial plans.

Private Finance in the form of senior debt and shareholder capital (equity) under the PFI and NHS LIFT initiatives is raised by private sector project companies which win contracts for schemes put out to tender by the procuring authority (i.e. an NHS Trust or PCT).

NHS: ICT

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the cost has been of new computer systems ordered for use in the National Health Service since 2007; which NHS computer contracts have been cancelled after the order was placed over that period; and what effect the installed new computer systems are expected to have on the NHS's expenditure. [263819]

Mr. Bradshaw: Comprehensive information is not available centrally in the form requested.

Local information technology (IT) expenditure reported by the national health service in the 2007-08 financial year—the latest period for which information is available—amounted to £1,852 million. This figure comprises revenue expenditure (£1,517 million, including capital charges of £258 million) reported through an annual national survey of IT investment, and capital expenditure (£335 million), identified in NHS accounts and reported by foundation trusts. It does not include expenditure by special health authorities or central expenditure funded by the Department. The information collected does not differentiate between different elements of IT expenditure, for example on hardware or software-related costs, nor include details of the local contractual arrangements.

Contracts covering the core systems and service being provided centrally under the national programme for information technology were entered into during 2003 and 2004. The contract with Fujitsu, the then local service provider for the national programme in the south of England, was terminated in May 2008 because of the company's failure to meet key contractual milestones and to provide an acceptable remediation plan.

Information about the local financial and resource impact due to the implementation of computer systems are held locally by the NHS organisations involved. However, while the purpose of the new systems being deployed through the national programme is to improve patient services by delivering better, safer care to patients more efficiently, they will in fact also save money by relieving doctors and other staff of unnecessary and time-consuming administrative burdens.

NHS: Statistics

Mr. Gordon Prentice: To ask the Secretary of State for Health which sets of statistical information which his Department required from NHS organisations in 2004 are no longer required to be supplied. [264333]

Mr. Bradshaw: The list of central data returns required from the national health service by the Department in 2004 which have subsequently been discontinued is as follows.

ROCR (Review of Central Returns) approved Department of Health statistical collections of information that have been discontinued since 2004

Discontinued ongoing collections

Collection of data about Prescription Prepayment Certificates

Survey of Registration and Inspection of Local Authority and Health Authority Units

Collection of Controls Assurance Data

Community Dental Health Services

Emergency Dental Services—EDS1

Acute Hospital Patient Centred and Clinical Information Systems Survey

Audited Funds Held on Trust summarisation schedules (12 CTF Forms)

Comprehensive Mental Health Service Mapping

Consultant Outpatient First Attendances (Provider Based)

Demand for Elective Admission (Health Authority Based)

Demand for Elective Admission: Events occurring during the Quarter (Provider Based)

Demand for Elective Admission: Events occurring during the Quarter (Relevant Population Based)

Demand for Elective Admission: Number of People who have Deferred Admission Waiting at the End of the Quarter (Health Authority Based)

Demand for Elective Admission: Number of People who have Deferred Admission Waiting at the End of the Quarter (Provider Based)

Demand for Elective Admission: Position at the end of the Quarter (Provider Based)

Dental Distance Standards

Financial and Workforce Information Return

GMP Calculation of Superannuable Remuneration

Health visiting and other Professional Advice and Support in the community

Landlord's expenses survey: notional rents and interest on loans

Mapping Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS)

Mission Critical and High Risk Projects

Mixed Sex Hospital Accommodation (formerly Patients Charter Standard—Single Sex Hospital Accommodation)

Monitoring accidents, violence and harassment targets

Monitoring equalities and education targets

Monitoring the £50 million Central Budget for Specialist Palliative Care

Monthly Monitoring Collection

Newly Reported HIV Infected Persons (Cumulative)

Newly Reported HIV Infected Persons (In Year)

NHS Trusts Annual Accounts Summarisation Forms (34 TAC Forms)

NHS Day Care: Availability and Use of Facilities

NHS Plan Monitoring of Planned Workforce Increases

Nursing Campaign Return

Patient Care in the Community: Community Learning Disability Nursing

Patient Care in the Community: Community Mental Health Nursing

Patient Care in the Community: District Nursing

Patient Care in the Community: Specialist Care Nursing

Patient's Charter Key Standards covering: Emergency Admissions through A and E; Waiting in Outpatient Clinics; Cancelled Operations and Transfer of Medical Records

Personal Medical Services

Practices below a minimum standard

Progress on implementing S21 of the Disability Discrimination Act

Regional Librarians Group (RLG) Statistics

Safety Alert Broadcast System (SABS)

Strategic Health Authority Analysis of Strategic Health Authority Provisions

Summary of Chiropody Services

Summary of Clinical Psychology Services

Summary of Occupational Therapy Services

Summary of Physiotherapy Services

Summary of Speech and Language Therapy Services

Summary of Ward Attenders (KH05)

Unaudited SHA summarisation schedules

Assessment of Consultants' Performance

Assessment of Contractors' Performance

Contract Monitoring Following Tender

Contract Tender Reporting

Forms Notifying Capital Scheme Approval

Scheme Monitoring Following Approval

Working Time Directive (WTD)—Gathering Intelligence from SHAs

Cancer Waiting Times: Monitoring the Two Week Target

Sickness Absence Collection

Salaried Doctors Employed under Salaried Doctors Scheme

AIDS (Control) Act 1987 Revised Reporting Arrangements

Consultant Level Prospective Waiting Times Information

Quarterly Monitoring of Cancer Bookings

National Orthopaedics Project—position statement

Survey of Health Professionals' attitudes and experiences with childhood immunisation 2006

Consultants Claiming an Award

Finance Staffing Database

Pharmaceutical, Dental and Ophthalmic Services

Weekly Access Return (inc PTL's)

One-off collections

Consultant Outpatient Clinic Activity and Accident and Emergency Services Activity (KH09)

Consultant Outpatient First Attendances (Health Authority Based)

Childcare arrangements in NHS Trusts

Out of area treatment Welsh Local Health Board

Local Stop Smoking Services

Survey of attitudes to and practice of prevention in primary care

Assessing Variation in Uptake of NICE Approved Cancer Drugs

A Strategy for NHS Information Quality Assurance

Controls Assurance

Audit of Child Information Systems

Data Quality of CAD

Care Programme Approach (CPA) Survey

CAMHS Letters to PCTs

NHS E-Booking Research

Electrical Power in NHS Acute Hospitals

Accounting for NHS Allocations for PACS

Alcohol Treatment Services Audit

HRG (Healthcare Resource Group) Questionnaire

Abortion waiting times and commissioning policies audit

Department of Health Stakeholder Perceptions Audit (DH Stakeholder Survey)

Mental Health Czar: Fact Finding Survey

Alcohol Enforcement Campaign: A and E collection

NHS Euro Preparedness

Tracking Cancer Investment

Enhanced Services Spend

National information strategy research, telephone survey

System Reform Behaviours and Relationships

MORI SHA survey

Consultant Contract Survey

Care Programme Approach (CPA) Survey

Local out-of-hours arrangements

Notes:

1. The list of discontinued collections provided are those that have been through the central approval process, received ministerial approval and had an official licence for the data to be collected.

2. Collections have been included that were discontinued, but were subsequently superseded by new collections that covered or changed the original data requirement.

3. The list of one-off collections relate to requests for data during 2004 that were not scheduled to be repeated in subsequent years.

4. Collections are not included that commenced after 2004 and have subsequently been discontinued.

NHS: Working Hours

Mr. Bone: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent assessment he has made of the effect of implementation of the European Working Time Directive on the working practices of NHS staff. [265731]

Norman Lamb: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment he has made of the effect of implementation of the European Working Time Directive on working practices in hospitals in England; and if he will make a statement. [265707]

Mr. Ancram: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent estimate he has made of the number of NHS staff in each professional role whose working practices will be affected by the implementation of the revised European Working Time Directive. [265298]

Ann Keen: Many parts of the national health service have made excellent progress implementing this important legislation, which ensures that patients receive safe, high quality care from staff who have not been forced to work excessive hours. The United Kingdom Government notified the European Commission in January of their assessment of progress in achieving compliance with the European Working Time Directive by doctors in training. A copy of the UK Notification of Derogation for Doctors in Training has been placed in the Library. The Department is working closely with the Medical Royal Colleges, the British Medical Association and the strategic health authorities to ensure trusts are prepared for full implementation.

Occupational Therapy

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what planning assessments he has made in respect of the number of occupational therapists required in the National Health Service. [263611]

Ann Keen: As at 30 September 2007, there were 17,024 qualified occupational therapy staff employed in the national health service.

Effective work force planning is about delivering the best possible patient care by ensuring high quality staff with the right skills are in the right place at the right time.

No assessment has been made centrally as to the number of occupational therapists required as local NHS organisations are best placed to assess the health care needs of their local populations.

Patients: Surveys

Andrew Selous: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the cost of the latest GP patient survey is; and how much of that cost relates to writing to patients who had already answered, asking them to participate. [265209]

Mr. Bradshaw *[holding answer 20 March 2009]*: The budget for the GP patient survey during 2008-09 is £8 million, a reduction of 20 per cent. on the 2007-08 costs. It is inevitable that with a survey of 5.7 million patients there will be a degree of crossover in the post of completed surveys with reminders. The number of items posted for each wave of the 2008-09 survey was:

5 January: 5,660,236;

9 February: 4,698,854; and

9 March: 3,496,282.

The postage cost of each individual letter works out at 28 pence per letter and it is estimated that due to the printing lead time of the reminders 200,000 questionnaires may have crossed in the post between completion and receipt of the reminders.

Physiology

Mark Pritchard: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent representations he has received from clinical physiologists on state registration for qualified members of their profession. [264538]

Ann Keen: In the past year we have received at least 69 representations. However, without examining each of these cases, this is only an indicative number. A more accurate answer could be given only at disproportionate cost.

Primary Care Trusts

Mr. Gummer: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will introduce rules to restrict the use of public funds by primary care trusts on legal advice in relation to action taken by them in response to public concerns about the closure of hospital departments. [264808]

Ann Keen: It is for individual national health service organisations to decide, in conjunction with the direction and priorities agreed with their strategic health authority and priorities set out in the Department's NHS operating framework, how to spend their resources for the benefit of patients. This principle applies to all expenditure and investment, including expenditure on legal fees.

Stroke: Health Services

Dr. Gibson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent steps have been taken under the National Stroke Strategy to reduce vascular risk in stroke or trans ischaemic attack patients. [263462]

Ann Keen: Under the quality and outcomes framework (QOF) primary care receives points for having a register of patients who have had a stroke or a trans ischaemic attack (TIA). The QOF also covers a number of indicators which relate to good clinical management of stroke patients, covering referral for further investigation, blood pressure and cholesterol management and the prescribing of anti-platelet or anti-coagulant medicine and flu vaccination. These measures assist primary care practitioners to reduce the risk of patients having a recurrent stroke or TIA.

The stroke strategy outlines the need to ensure systems are in place locally for key prevention measures e.g. management of hypertension and smoking cessation to those who have had a stroke or TIA.

ENERGY AND CLIMATE CHANGE

Biofuels

Graham Stringer: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change with reference to paragraph 7.4.6 of the UK Renewable Energy Strategy consultation document, what recent assessment he has made of greenhouse gas emissions associated with biomass in relation to the reporting requirements of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change on carbon-neutral energy sources. [264736]

Mr. Mike O'Brien *[holding answer 19 March 2009]*: The UK Government's National Inventory Report to the UNFCCC is due on 15 April. This will provide estimates of historical emissions, by sector, including biomass until 2007.

An assessment of the impact of announced policies by sector will be included in our UK 5th National Communication to the UNFCCC, which we hope to publish this summer.

Carbon Emissions: Buildings

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change when phase 2 of the low carbon buildings grant will end; and what arrangements have been put in place for a replacement. [253788]

Mr. Mike O'Brien *[holding answer 2 February 2009]*: Phase two of the Low Carbon Buildings Programme will close to new applications on 30 June 2009. We are currently considering next steps post June 2009.

A feed-in tariffs (FITs) mechanism for small-scale, low-carbon electricity generation is currently being developed. We will consult on the details of the scheme this summer and FITs will be in place in April 2010.

A mechanism for a Renewable Heat Incentive is also being developed and the details of this scheme will also be consulted on. We intend to have the RHI in place in April 2011.

Carbon Sequestration

Dr. Gibson: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what recent assessment he has made of the development of carbon capture and storage technologies. [264695]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The Government's policy on carbon, capture and storage was most recently set out in the Energy White Paper, 2007 and the "Carbon Abatement

Technology (CAT) Strategy for Fossil Fuel Use in the UK", 2005. These policies were underpinned by a number of studies and reports, some specifically commissioned by the Government such as:

Review on Carbon Dioxide Capture and Storage (CCS), 2003:

http://www.berr.gov.uk/files/file21887.pdf

The Role of Fossil Fuel Carbon Abatement Technologies in a Low Carbon Energy System—A Report on Analysis Undertaken to Advise on DTI's CAT Strategy, 2005:

http://www.berr.gov.uk/files/file19834.pdf

Industrial Carbon Dioxide Emissions and Carbon Dioxide Storage Potential in the UK, 2006:

http://www.berr.gov.uk/files/file35684.pdf.

The Government also take account of the work of others such as the:

IEA Energy Technologies Perspectives http://www.iea.org/Textbase/techno/etp/index.asp

European Technology Platform for Zero Emission Fossil Fuel Plants—CO_2 Capture and Storage (CCS) Matrix of Technologies

Advanced Power Generation Technology Forum

Most recently, the Advisory Committee on Carbon Abatement Technologies (ACCAT) has set out its views on how Government should review their CAT Strategy in its advisory document on "Accelerating the Deployment of Carbon Abatement Technologies with special focus on Carbon Capture and Storage, 2009":

http://www.berr.gov.uk/files/file50128.pdf.

The Government will be taking this into account as they develop their future policies on CCS.

Departmental Art Works

Mr. Vara: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change which works of art from the Government Art Collection each Minister in his Department has selected for display in a private office. [259434]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: No Minister within this Department has currently selected any works of art from the Government Art Collection for any private office.

Departmental Disciplinary Proceedings

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how many staff in his Department were disciplined for *(a)* bullying and *(b)* harassment of colleagues in each of the last three years. [254090]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: Since the Department's creation on 3 October 2008 no one has been disciplined in those circumstances.

Departmental Location

Greg Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how many staff in his Department have their main place of work outside London. [257594]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: In February 2009 DECC had 74 staff whose main place of work was outside London.

Departmental Ministerial Policy Advisers

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how much has been claimed in reimbursable expenses by special advisers in his Department since its inception. [260294]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: Costs incurred on reimbursable expenses in 2008-09 will be available only when the Department's resource accounts are fully audited and laid before Parliament. This is expected to be before the 2009 summer recess.

Departmental Performance Appraisal

Gregory Barker: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how many members of staff in his Department are subject to a performance-based bonus system. [255151]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: DECC was created on 3 October 2008 when staff were transferred from BERR and DEFRA. Work is currently being undertaken to design the DECC pay systems. These will need to be approved by HMT and negotiated with the trade unions for implementation later in the year. In line with civil service pay policy, the DECC pay arrangements will include a performance-based bonus scheme which will cover all staff but no decisions have been taken so far on the proportion of staff in any year who will actually receive a bonus.

Departmental Surveys

Gregory Barker: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change whether his Department has conducted a recent survey of the level of staff morale within his Department. [255276]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: No.

Deposited Papers

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what procedures his Department has in place to ensure that undertakings to place documents in the Library are fulfilled. [247142]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: Since 26 January 2009, when the Department of Energy and Climate Change's Parliamentary Unit was set up, officials from the unit check all written answers to parliamentary questions, written ministerial statements, ministerial correspondence and debates in the Chamber to record instances where a Minister commits the Department to place a document in the Libraries of the House. The Parliamentary Unit then arranges this and maintains an electronic record.

Prior to 26 January 2009 this activity was undertaken jointly by the Parliamentary Units of BERR and DEFRA.

Electric Cables

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what *(a)* mileage and *(b)* percentage of new power lines was laid (i) underground and (ii) overground in each of the last 30 years. [263057]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The Department is unable to provide historical data covering the last 30-year period. Ofgem the industry regulator has provided comprehensive data covering the periods 2005-06, 2006-07 and 2007-08 for both transmission and distribution networks across England, Wales and Scotland. These details are contained in the following table.

				Kilometres/percentage
	Total added	*Overhead*	*Underground*	*Percentage underground*
2005-06	10,368	3,162	7,206	70
2006-07	7,685	1,941	5,744	75
2007-08	8,582	2,225	6,357	74

A large amount of new power lines are low voltage distribution lines in urbanised areas.

Electricity Generation

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what his most recent estimate is of the average cost per unit of electricity generated from each type of renewable source. [263021]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The generation cost of different technologies are measured in terms of levelised costs and are presented on a £ per megawatt hour basis. The Government have carried out analysis on generation costs in some detail in recent years to inform policy decisions. Some of these estimates have been published as part of the Energy Review (2006). 2008 estimates suggest the following indicative costs (£/MWh) associated with generating 1MWh of electricity from renewable sources:

	£/MWh
Onshore wind (80MW)	70
Offshore wind (100MW)	92
Biomass regular	80-90
Biomass energy crop	110-120
Biomass CHP	80-90
Wave	160-190
Tidal stream	150-180
Tidal range	130-160
Biowaste	90-110
Biogas	170-200

Energy: Consumers

Greg Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what steps his Department is undertaking to promote the benefits of energy supplier switching to energy consumers who have not previously switched supplier. [256850]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The Department has funded with Ofgem the Energy Best Deal, a pilot scheme to train front-line advice workers to help low income householders get the best deal on energy bills. Last year, Ofgem conducted a probe into energy markets, which found that some customers needed more information to help them participate effectively in the market. Ofgem is now considering what other means can be used to increase customers' involvement in the market.

Energy: Meters

Paul Rowen: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what recent discussions he has had with energy supply companies on the use of pre-payment gas and electricity meters; and if he will make a statement. [256884]

Mr. Mike O'Brien *[holding answer 23 February 2009]*: Ministers have met with energy suppliers and discussed a range of issues in the energy supply markets. Following the results of the Ofgem probe into energy markets, Ministers have emphasised to suppliers that they expect all consumers to be treated fairly, whatever the method they use to pay for their gas and electricity supply.

EU Emissions Trading Scheme

Simon Hughes: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what his policy is on the use of revenues generated from the auctioning of pollution allowances in the EU Emissions Trading Scheme for the construction of new unabated but carbon capture ready coal-fired power plant, as referred to in the EU energy package; and what plans he has to discuss the use of these revenues with his EU counterparts. [264523]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: EU Emissions Trading System (ETS) auction revenues will not be hypothecated to support the construction of new unabated carbon-capture ready coal-fired power plant.

In December 2008, the European Council adopted a political declaration indicating EU member states' willingness to spend at least half of the auction revenues under the revised EU Emissions Trading System to tackle climate change both in the EU and in developing countries. This will include reducing emissions, adapting to climate change, developing renewable technologies and providing for the environmentally safe capture and storage of greenhouse gases.

In addition to this, the revised Emissions Trading System Directive provides for 300 million emissions allowances to be made available until the end of 2015 from the new entrant reserve to co-fund up to 12 commercial scale demonstrations of environmentally safe carbon capture and storage and innovative renewable energy technologies to provide an incentive for their rapid development.

Government Communications

Greg Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how many staff in *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agencies (i) are classified as Government communicators and (ii) have access to the Government Communication Network. [256073]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: DECC has 13 members of staff who are classified as Government communicators and have access to the Government Communication Network. These include:

One Director of Communications
One Head of News
One Chief Press Officer
Four Press Officers
Six Marketing officers

DECC has no executive agencies.

Members: Correspondence

Sir Gerald Kaufman: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change when he plans to reply to the letter to him dated 15 January 2009 from the right hon. Member for Manchester, Gorton with regard to Mrs. R. Allan. [260336]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State replied to my right hon. Friend on 17 March 2009.

Natural Gas

Greg Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what proportion of natural gas used in the UK in 2008 came from *(a)* UK Continental Shelf production, *(b)* imports from Norway, *(c)* imports from the Russian Federation and *(d)* other sources. [256004]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: Provisional data for 2008 show that the UK's gross demand (including exports) for natural gas was sourced as follows: *(a)* Net production of natural gas from the UK Continental Shelf, 65 per cent., *(b)* from Norway, 25 per cent., *(c)* from the Russian Federation, negligible, and *(d)* from other sources, 10 per cent. (8 per cent. from the Netherlands).

Monthly imports and exports of natural gas by country are published in Energy Trends Table 4.3 on the DECC/BERR website at this address

http://www.berr.gov.uk/whatwedo/energy/statistics/source/gas/page18525.html.

Nuclear Power Stations

Dr. Howells: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how many *(a)* Health and Safety Executive and *(b)* Nuclear Installations Inspectorate staff work (i) full-time and (ii) part-time on the generic design assessment (GDA) of new power station designs; and how many such staff he expects to work on the GDA in each of the next three years. [260441]

Jonathan Shaw: I have been asked to reply.

The amount of time Nuclear Inspectors in the Health and Safety Executive spent on generic design assessment (GDA) in the last two quarters was:

	Days
Quarter 3 for 2008-09	1,004
Quarter 4 for 2008-09	805.5

This is entirely made up of Nuclear Installations Inspectorate staff working on GDA. Approximately 7 per cent. of this effort is from staff not dedicated just to GDA, so only working part-time on GDA.

We expect around 25 Inspectors to be working on GDA up to mid June 2011. It is too early to estimate how many Inspectors will be working on the new nuclear build programme after that date.

Renewable Energy: Public Consultation

Graham Stringer: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change if he will publish a list of *(a)* respondents and *(b)* responses to the Government's consultation on the UK Renewable Energy Strategy. [264633]

Mr. Mike O'Brien *[holding answer 19 March 2009]*: The summary of responses to the Renewable Energy Strategy consultation and the full text of responses are available online at:

http://renewableconsultation.berr.gov.uk/consultation

JUSTICE

Departmental Disciplinary Proceedings

Mr. Grieve: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many staff in his Department have been subject to disciplinary action for breaches of IT security policy in each of the last three years. [263836]

Mr. Straw: The Department takes data security very seriously and new mandated measures to improve and strengthen controls in the protection of personal data were introduced following the Government's Review of Data Handling last year. Since the Ministry was established in May 2007, central records show that 19 staff in 2007 and 37 staff in 2008 were subject to disciplinary action for breaches of IT security policy. The types of incidents would have included, but not exclusively, mis-use of e-mail and internet browsing. None of the incidents compromised the integrity of the Department's IT systems.

Entry Clearances: Appeals

Mr. Carswell: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many family visitor visa appeals were *(a)* received and *(b)* upheld in each of the last six years. [264759]

Bridget Prentice: The number of family visitor visa appeals that were received and granted by an adjudicator/immigration judge in each of the last six years is shown in the following table:

	Appeal receipts	*Appeals allowed*
2003-04	16,884	[1]7,275
2004-05	30,643	[1]12,384
2005-06	58,495	12,793
2006-07	50,065	24,638
2007-08[2]	64,669	21,755
April to December 2008[2]	50,009	16,143

[1] Outcomes data were not published prior to April 2005. The allowed figures for 2003-04 and 2004-05 are estimates based on the distribution of outcomes from an alternative data source.

[2] Data are provisional and subject to final reconciliation.

Extradition: USA

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how much HM Courts Service has spent in relation to cases of extradition of people to the United States in each year since 2001. [264515]

Bridget Prentice: HM Courts Service does not maintain records relating to the costs of extradition hearings. HM Courts Service would have to undertake a manual exercise to obtain the data required to answer the question. HM Court Service considers the costs of such an exercise would incur a disproportionate cost.

Firearms: Young People

Paul Holmes: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many people aged *(a)* 14 to 17 and *(b)* 18 to 21 years old have been prosecuted for firearms offences in each year since 2001. [264709]

Mr. Hanson: Information on the number of persons found guilty at all courts for firearm offences in England and Wales 2001 to 2007 (latest available) can be viewed in the following table.

The figures given in the table relate to persons for whom these offences were the principal offence for which they were dealt with. When a defendant has been found guilty of two or more offences, the offence selected is the one for which the heaviest penalty is imposed. Where the same disposal is imposed for two or more offences, the offence selected is the offence for which the statutory maximum penalty is the most severe.

Court proceedings data for 2008 will be available in the autumn of 2009.

Number of persons proceeded against at magistrates courts for firearms offences in England and Wales, by age group, 2001-07[1, 2]

	Proceeded against	
	Age 14-17	Age 18-21
2001	496	698
2002	419	643
2003	398	666
2004	538	674
2005	556	685
2006	470	599
2007	501	586

[1] These data are on the principal offence basis.

[2] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts, and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

Source:

Office for Criminal Justice Reform: Evidence and Analysis Unit.

Haverigg Prison

Mr. Jamie Reed: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the average annual cost of accommodating an inmate in HM Prison Haverigg since 1997 has been. [263703]

Mr. Hanson: The full average cost per prisoner at Haverigg prison has not been calculated for each year requested. This information was not until recently gathered in this format and to produce it would incur disproportionate costs. However the direct cost per prisoner at Haverigg is published in the annual accounts of Her Majesty's Prison Service, and is set out in the following table.

These costs represent the direct costs only; that is expenditure accounted for at prison establishment level. The year on year figures may not be strictly comparable due to accounting changes over the period.

For 2007-08, an overall cost per prisoner has been calculated taking into account costs met centrally by the Prison Service and the National Offender Management Service. These are primarily property costs (in particular depreciation and cost of capital) but also include some headquarter overheads and other costs met centrally. On this basis the overall cost per prisoner at Haverigg, for 2007-08 was £34,815, and includes some estimation.

	Cost per prisoner—HM Prison Haverigg (£)
2007-08	24,450
2006-07	22,304
2005-06	21,704
2004-05	21,299
2003-04	20,264
2002-03	18,086
2001-02	17,195
2000-01	21,551
1999-2000	23,464
1998-99[1]	18,207
1997-98	16,700
1996-97	17,300

[1] The cost for 1998-99 is cost per prisoner place.

Immigration: Appeals

Mr. Carswell: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many immigration appeals were *(a)* received from and *(b)* granted in relation to people from (i) India, (ii) Pakistan and (iii) Nigeria in each of the last six years. [264760]

Bridget Prentice: The number of immigration appeals received and granted in relation to appeals from people from India, Pakistan and Nigeria in the last six years is shown in the following table.

	Appeal receipts			Appeals allowed		
	India	Nigeria	Pakistan	India	Nigeria	Pakistan
2003-04	2,581	2,334	1,392	111	491	622
2004-05	4,200	1,976	4,646	1,622	759	1,308
2005-06	10,791	10,296	17,391	2,220	764	3,366
2006-07	9,762	11,019	13,547	3,862	3,904	5,468
2007-08	13,926	10,246	19,270	4,301	3,175	5,793
2008-09 (April to December 2008)[1]	12,779	7,289	13,634	4,029	2,180	5,682

[1] Data are provisional and subject to reconciliation.

Legal Aid: Housing

Mr. Burstow: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many applications for acts of assistance relating to housing were received by the Legal Services Commission in each Government region in each quarter of *(a)* 2007-08 and *(b)* 2008-09; how many such applications were accepted; how much has been spent on them; and if he will make a statement. [264644]

Mr. Malik: The information will take the Legal Services Commission several days to obtain. I will write to the hon. Member once the information becomes available.

Mr. Burstow: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many people in Greater London have received assistance from each of the desks established in courts to provide free legal representation at repossession hearings in each month since the scheme's inception. [264645]

Mr. Malik: A table showing the number of people who have received assistance from Legal Services Commission funded schemes for repossession hearings at courts in Greater London in each month since the scheme's inception at that court has been placed in the House of Commons Library.

Libel: Legal Aid

Daniel Kawczynski: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice if he will make available legal aid for libel cases in which members of the medical profession are stating medical opinion. [264506]

Mr. Malik: There are no plans to make legal aid available for libel cases. We believe it is not in the public interest to allocate the limited resources available for legal aid to these types of cases, particularly as libel cases can be funded by Conditional Fee Agreements.

Magistrates Courts

Mr. Jamie Reed: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what recent assessment his Department has made of the willingness of businesses to release employees to fulfil magistracy duties in the current economic situation. [263708]

Mr. Straw: My Department and advisory committees undertake continuous work with employers both to encourage them to support employees wishing to serve as magistrates, and to highlight the benefits to them of employees being trained, and serving as, magistrates.

The Government will continue to encourage employers to support employees who wish to serve as magistrates. Attracting those in full-time employment can impact positively on the diversity of the magistracy in respect of age. In 2008, of 1,700 new magistrates, 46 per cent. were under 50 years of age, compared to 19 per cent. in the magistracy as a whole.

Magistrates: Barnsley

Jeff Ennis: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many magistrates on the Barnsley Magistrates' Bench resided in *(a)* Barnsley Central constituency, *(b)* Barnsley West and Penistone constituency and *(c)* Barnsley East and Mexborough constituency in each of the last 10 years. [264551]

Mr. Straw: There are currently 115 magistrates in the Barnsley local justice area.

(a) 36 magistrates live in the constituency of Barnsley Central

(b) 50 magistrates live in the constituency of Barnsley West and Penistone

(c) 15 magistrates live in the constituency of Barnsley East and Mexborough.

10 magistrates live in other constituencies and four had invalid postcodes recorded.

My Department does not hold a central record of the constituencies in which magistrates live. We are undertaking a manual exercise in order to provide the historical information sought, and I will write to the hon. Member as soon as it is available.

Offenders: Rehabilitation

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how much was spent by West Yorkshire Drugs and Offender Management Unit on its Integrated Offender Management Programme in *(a)* 2006, *(b)* 2007, *(c)* 2008 and *(d)* 2009. [264576]

Mr. Hanson: Integrated Offender Management is a locally agreed, multi-agency approach to reducing crime through punishing and reforming persistent offenders. IOM is a relatively new concept and there was no central funding of West Yorkshire before 2008-09. In 2008-09, the Home Office and Ministry of Justice together allocated £550,000 to support the development of Integrated Offender Management in West Yorkshire. This money was received by the Drugs and Offender Management Unit in West Yorkshire police on behalf of the multi-agency Integrated Offender Management partnership in West Yorkshire. We expect the allocation for 2009-10 to be £395,000. The core funding of criminal justice agencies also supports this work.

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how much time was spent by the Yorkshire and Humber Offender Management Service interviewing and informing offenders that discriminatory behaviour is unacceptable in *(a)* 2006, *(b)* 2007, *(c)* 2008 and *(d)* 2009. [264579]

Mr. Hanson: Tackling prejudice and discrimination is one of the aims of offender management and it is standard practice for offenders to be advised about the implications of discriminatory behaviour during the induction process. The information requested is not available, and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost, however, in the four probation areas that make up the Yorkshire and Humberside region of the National Offender Management Service, 16,715 offenders started community or suspended sentence orders during 2006 and 18,079 during 2007. Each offender will have gone through an induction process. Section 2c.7 of the National Standards for the Management of Offenders requires probation areas to induct offenders into the sentence at the start of a community order.

Similarly induction procedures into prison establishments require prisons to emphasise the prison policy on the Race Relations Act and establish standards of behaviour. There were 125,881 first receptions into prison establishments in 2007 and 128,986 in 2006. The data are not broken down by region.

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how much time was spent by the Yorkshire and Humber Offender Management Service on the delivery of restrictive interventions to offenders in *(a)* 2006, *(b)* 2007, *(c)* 2008 and *(d)* 2009. [264580]

Mr. Hanson: For the purposes of this reply, we are taking "restrictive interventions" to mean the Multi-Agency Public Protection Arrangements, Approved Premises, Home Detention Curfew and certain licence conditions.

It is not possible, on the basis of information held by the Yorkshire and Humberside region or by each probation area within that region, to disaggregate and isolate from general probation activity the amount of time spent on the delivery of each of those restrictive interventions to offenders. To require this information to be collected would incur disproportionate cost.

Restrictive interventions are used to manage the risk of harm which offenders in the community present and so protect the public.

Open Prisons: Prisoner Escapes

Paul Holmes: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many inmates *(a)* escaped and *(b)* absconded from each open prison in each year since 1997. [264718]

Mr. Hanson: Absconds have fallen to less than half the levels they were 10 years ago while there have been no prison escapes so far this financial year compared to 10 to 20 escapes per year a decade ago. Escapes occur when prisoners unlawfully absent themselves from custody by overcoming a physical barrier or restraint. Absconds occur from open prisons when prisoners absent themselves without needing to overcome a physical barrier or restraint. Prisoners can escape from an open prison if they are being held temporarily in secure conditions within the open prison such as in segregation.

The following table shows the number of prisoners who have absconded from each open prison since 1997. In addition to the figures shown in this table, one prisoner escaped from HMP Thorn Cross in 1999.

	1997-98	*1998-99*	*1999-2000*	*2000-01*	*2001-02*	*2002-03*	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*
Askham Grange	35	17	20	21	19	12	31	12	14	7	11
Blantyre House	1	—	—	—	1	1	—	1	1	—	—
Drake Hall	122	134	94	39	33	—	1	—	—	—	—
East Sutton Park	5	3	3	3	3	—	1	2	4	2	—
Ford	53	40	68	57	57	91	142	110	96	62	47
Grendon/ Springhill	20	9	14	14	12	23	60	36	34	11	21
Hatfield	77	80	36	34	50	56	—	—	—	—	—
Hewell Grange	40	17	32	20	15	23	31	24	24	13	15
Hollesley Bay	13	25	11	24	8	14	36	32	16	21	19
Kirkham	234	202	171	169	163	208	213	120	74	54	65
Kirklevington	—	2	—	—	—	1	—	4	2	—	—
Latchmere House	2	—	—	1	2	1	—	—	—	—	—
Leyhill	20	25	34	25	19	33	114	102	66	37	55
Moorland	1	1	—	—	—	—	68	73	49	41	23
Morton Hall	20	15	23	6	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
North Sea Camp	25	32	27	24	36	34	79	33	49	48	46
Norwich (resettlement unit)	2	—	—	—	1	—	—	8	2	2	1
Standford Hill	35	36	43	29	37	83	89	39	58	38	44
Sudbury	81	75	63	69	81	68	75	77	76	78	55
Thorn Cross	168	135	147	110	135	152	130	90	105	82	68
Usk/Prescoed	7	13	19	14	5	8	35	19	9	9	8
Wealstun	48	70	72	105	79	101	144	74	28	46	32

Notes:

1. Colchester closed during 1998
2. Drake Hall changed role to Semi Open in 2001-02 from Open
3. Hatfield merged with Moorland in 2003-04
4. Kirklevington changed role to Semi Open in 2001-02 from Category C
5. Latchmere House changed role to Semi Open in 2001-02 from Open
6. Morton Hall changed role to Semi Open in 2001 -02 from Open
7. Norwich—Open Resettlement Unit

These figures have been drawn from administrative data systems. Although care is taken when processing and analysing the returns, the detail collected is subject to the inaccuracies inherent in any large scale recording system.

Figures on absconds and a range of other prison performance statistics are available at:

http://www.hmprisonservice.gov.uk/abouttheservice/prisonperformance/performancestatistics/

Police Custody

Paul Holmes: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice for what offences prisoners placed in police and court cells under Operation Safeguard had been convicted. [264711]

Mr. Straw: Under current arrangements both convicted and remand prisoners can be held over night under Operation Safeguard and court cells. Police cells under

Operation Safeguard have not been used to house prisoners since 22 September 2008 and court cells have not been used since 28 February 2008.

A list of specific offences that prisoners had been convicted of, or charged with, is not held centrally. This information could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

However (as per Prison Service Instruction 30/2006) every effort is made to avoid the use of police and court cells for certain categories of prisoner including:

prisoners with a crown court trial in progress (including those from the Court of Appeal);

all category A prisoners including potential category A prisoners (a prisoner whose escape would be highly dangerous to the public or the police or the security of the state and for whom the aim must be to make escape impossible).

Police Custody: Food

Paul Holmes: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what estimate he has made of the daily expenditure per prisoner on meals for prisoners held in police and court cells in each year since 2003. [264713]

Mr. Straw: Under an agreement between NOMS and ACPO there is an upper limit to the amount the police may charge for the provision of meals for prisoners held overnight in police cells under Operation Safeguard. Forces may be paid up to £12 for each prisoner over a 24-hour period. Only under exceptional circumstances can this figure be exceeded.

NOMS is invoiced by police forces in arrears for the use of cells activated under Operation Safeguard. NOMS also receives invoices in arrears from contractors for use of court cells.

Expenditure on meals provided for prisoners held in police and court cells is not readily available from invoices submitted. This information could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Prisoners: Mentally Ill

Paul Holmes: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what recent estimate his Department has made of the *(a)* number and *(b)* proportion of the prison population with one or more mental health condition, broken down by condition; and if he will make a statement. [264719]

Mr. Hanson: The Government have commissioned my noble Friend, Lord Keith Bradley to carry out a review on offenders with mental health and learning disability problems. There is a Government commitment to publishing the Bradley review report during April 2009.

The most recent estimates for mental health of the prisoner population of England and Wales come from Surveying Prisoner Crime Reduction (SPCR), from 2005-06. There is also an older Psychiatric Morbidity Survey (PMS) among prisoners (1997). There is a measure of comparability across relevant results from the two surveys.

Across the two surveys, the range of prevalence rates for any functional psychosis was between 7 per cent. and 9 per cent. for sentenced males, and 14 per cent. and 18 per cent. for sentenced females.

Also across the two surveys, the range of prevalence rates for any personality disorder was between 62 per cent. and 64 per cent. for sentenced males, and 57 per cent. and 59 per cent. for sentenced females.

Figures for neurotic conditions such as anxiety and depression were not obtained in the same way in the two surveys. Focusing just on the more recent SPCR figures (using the Maudsley Addiction Profile), and using a threshold of six symptoms, 34 per cent. of sentenced male prisoners and 56 per cent. of sentenced female prisoners were appreciably affected by anxiety/depression and other neurotic conditions.

Neither set of survey results has been translated from percentage figures into estimates of numbers of prisoners.

Further information on the results of these two surveys can be found in the published reports. These are, for SPCR, "The Problems and Needs of Newly Sentenced Prisoners: Results from a National Survey" Ministry of Justice Research Series 16/08 (2008). For PSM: "Psychiatric Morbidity among Prisoners in England and Wales: Summary Report" (ONS, 1998).

SPCR:

http://www.justice.gov.uk/publications/research-2008.htm

PSM:

http://www.statistics.gov.uk/downloads/theme_health/Prisoners_PsycMorb.pdf

Paul Holmes: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many and what proportion of the prison population have been held in *(a)* NHS and *(b)* independent sector mental healthcare places in each of the last 10 years; and if he will make a statement. [264720]

Mr. Hanson: Centrally held information is not available to answer all parts of the question posed. The annual statistical bulletin on mentally disordered offenders for England and Wales over the last 10 years for which figures are available gives the number of mentally disordered offenders admitted to hospital from prison, detained in hospital following transfer from prison and transferred back to prison from hospital (while un-sentenced and after sentencing) are shown in the following table.

	1998	*1999*	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*
Admitted to hospital from prison after sentence	258	267	270	222	223	296	346	356	421	394
Admitted to hospital from prison while un-sentenced	481	464	392	413	421	426	485	478	473	479
Detained in hospital following transfer after sentence	402	385	386	402	410	489	505	561	627	684
Detained in hospital while un-sentenced	168	151	151	160	141	174	189	218	175	284
Returned to prison from hospital to resume sentence	93	130	100	84	100	96	135	113	164	154
Returned to prison from hospital whilst un-sentenced	35	40	32	40	55	54	54	47	58	60

These figures are drawn from tables 2, 6 and 9 of "Statistics of Mentally Disordered Offenders 2007: England and Wales", which can be downloaded from:

http://www.justice.gov.uk/docs/mentally-disordered-offenders-2007.pdf

It is not possible to differentiate between those held in NHS and independent sector mental health care places.

Prisons: Cleaning Services

Mr. Grieve: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the cost of centrally-managed prison laundry services was in 2007-08. [264668]

Mr. Straw: While operating within an overall strategic and policy framework laundries within the public Prison Service are not managed centrally, running costs having been devolved to establishment level some years ago. As a result, relatively little information about operating costs is held centrally. To collect this information from each establishment would attract disproportionate cost.

In 2007-08, Prison Industries Headquarters allocated funding to establishments for industrial laundry materials and maintenance to the value of £783,500. A further £376,000 was allocated for capital plant replacement.

In 2007-08 there were 43 industrial laundries together with a significant number of local launderettes.

Prisons: Food

Paul Holmes: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what estimate he has made of the daily expenditure per prisoner on prison meals in each year since 2003. [264712]

Mr. Hanson: The average public sector Prison Service daily food expenditure per prisoner in England and Wales since 2003-04 to 2007-08 (latest available data) is set out in the table.

Individual governors of public sector prisons have had the authority to set their own catering budgets since 1994 and there is no set financial formula that prisons are required to follow when setting establishment food budgets. Governors make choices on the budget allocated to food based on a variety of issues including the prisoner population and the type of regime.

Average expenditure per prisoner includes all food and beverage requirements. Prisons provide breakfast, midday and evening meal and a supper snack together with all condiments and beverages. Menu requirements vary between establishments and are based on consumer preferences, local regimes and seasonal availability.

Financial year	*Average public sector Prison Service daily food expenditure per prisoner*[1] *(£)*
2003-04	1.81
2004-05	1.87
2005-06	1.93
2006-07	1.97
2007-08	2.12

[1] The daily food cost has been calculated using available management information from the Prison Service finance systems and assumes that all transactions have been allocated and recorded against the correct accounting codes.

Written Answers to Questions

Tuesday 24 March 2009

WALES

Departmental Flowers

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales how much was spent by his Department on flowers in the last 12 months. [266289]

Mr. Paul Murphy: In the last 12 months, my Department has spent £40 on flowers.

Departmental Public Expenditure

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what *(a)* capital and *(b)* resource funds his Department has brought forward from its (i) 2009-10 and (ii) 2010-11 budgets for use in (A) 2008-09 and (B) 2009-10; and what schemes this funding is being used to support. [265105]

Mr. Paul Murphy: The Wales Office is a small Department with no executive functions, and no responsibility for spending programmes, either capital or resource. Our resource allocation is purely to cover our own running costs, and our capital allocation only to provide cover for proper management of Gwydyr House. Accordingly, we are not in a position to participate in the bringing forward of spending plans.

Opinion Leader Research

Mr. Baron: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales how much his Department has paid Opinion Leader Research in each financial year since 2007-08. [265976]

Mr. Paul Murphy: My Department has not made any payments to Opinion Leader Research since 2007-08.

HOUSE OF COMMONS COMMISSION

Management and Services of the House of Commons Review

Mr. Amess: To ask the hon. Member for North Devon, representing the House of Commons Commission how much was spent by the Commission on the Tebbit Review of Management and Services of the House; how much has been spent to date on implementation of the review's findings; and if he will make a statement. [264618]

Nick Harvey: The cost of the Tebbit Review was £112,000. It is difficult to distinguish the costs of implementing the Tebbit Review from the costs of improved service delivery and organisational change, some of which was already under way before the Tebbit Review but to which the Review gave additional impetus. A preliminary analysis suggests that the additional direct costs of implementing the Tebbit recommendations, to the end of the current financial year, have been £395,000, which have been met out of existing budgets from efficiency savings. This figure does not include the cost of service improvements since the Tebbit Review (for example, improvements to the parliamentary website and to internal communications).

It is planned to review the extent to which the intended business benefits of the Tebbit Review have been realised in 2010.

LEADER OF THE HOUSE

Training

Grant Shapps: To ask the Leader of the House which training courses were *(a)* available to and *(b)* taken up by (i) civil servants and (ii) Ministers in her Office in the last 12 months. [265303]

Chris Bryant: Training courses are just one aspect of the development opportunities open to civil servants in the Office of the Leader of the House of Commons, and every member of staff discusses their personal development as part of their appraisal process.

Information on courses attended is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost. However, during the last 12 months members of staff participated in training provided by external training organisations and internal training courses which are provided by the Cabinet Office free of charge.

During the past 12 months Ministers in the Office of the Leader of the House of Commons have taken up training courses provided by the National School of Government.

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

Afghanistan: Peacekeeping Operations

Mr. Ellwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent discussions the Government has had with the Taliban on securing peace in Afghanistan. [264763]

Bill Rammell: The Government have not engaged in talks with the Taliban in Afghanistan. However, our embassy in Kabul and the UK-led Civil-Military Mission Helmand in Lashkar Gah have made a wide range of contacts within the Afghanistan government and people in public life, some of whom will have held positions under the former Taliban regime.

The UK's position on reconciliation remains unchanged. It is not for the UK to reconcile with those elements fighting in opposition to the Afghan government. We support President Karzai's efforts to bring disaffected Afghans into society's mainstream, providing they renounce violence and accept Afghanistan's constitution.

Binyam Mohamed

Mr. Holloway: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs with reference to paragraph 9 (ix) of the High Court judgement in the case of R (Binyam Mohamed) v Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs of 21 August 2008 on what date officials of his Department were first informed that an officer of the Secret Intelligence Service had made observations about the treatment of persons detained by or on behalf of the United States in Afghanistan. [259032]

Bill Rammell *[holding answer 26 February 2009]:* It is the long-standing policy of the Government not to comment on intelligence matters. The Intelligence and Security Committee's 2005 Report into the Handling of Detainees by UK Intelligence Personnel in Afghanistan, Guantanamo Bay and Iraq records that,

> "Ministers were not informed of this incident until July 2004."

Mr. Lidington: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment of Binyam Mohamed's welfare was made by the UK officials who visited him in July 2008; and if he will make a statement. [262707]

Bill Rammell: We made clear repeatedly our concern about Mr Mohamed's welfare and medical condition during his detention at Guantanamo Bay. Following US agreement, Foreign and Commonwealth Office officials conducted a welfare visit to him on 23 July 2008. No immediate concerns were raised and it would be inappropriate to reveal personal details passed to our officials. Issues raised by Mr Mohamed were followed up with US at the time. The findings of the visit were communicated to Mr Mohamed's family and legal representatives.

Burma: China

John Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent discussions he has had with the government of China on reports of illegal export of logs and timber from Burma. [265883]

Bill Rammell: My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary has not raised this issue in his contacts with the Chinese government. However, the ongoing UK-China Sustainable Development Dialogue includes a strand of work on natural resource management, under which the UK Forestry Commission and the Chinese State Forestry Administration co-operate on 'Forest Law Enforcement and Governance', including to combat illegal logging. Discussions between officials have covered sustainability and legality of timber exports, and are due to cover timber tracking systems. These discussions are relevant to all timber exporting countries, including Burma.

Burma: EC Common Foreign and Security Policy

John Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what progress has been made on the implementation of the EU Common Position on Burma; and if he will make a statement. [265359]

Bill Rammell: The Government are determined that the common position should be implemented such that it targets those individuals and entities that benefit directly from the regime's misrule, while allowing vital humanitarian work within Burma to continue.

Burma: Politics and Government

John Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what plans he has to discuss the political situation in Burma with his colleagues in the United Nations Security Council. [265358]

Bill Rammell: We regularly discuss Burma with members of the UN Security Council, as well as those countries participating in the UN Secretary-General's Group of Friends. We use this frequent dialogue to reinforce our deep concern at the political and human rights situation in Burma, and urge those with influence on the military government to help the UN Good Offices Mission deliver tangible progress on the ground. The UN Security Council will continue to seek a briefing from the Secretary-General and his representatives on the outcome of their interaction with Burma.

John Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment he has made of the efficacy of the Supplementary Understanding reached by the government of Myanmar with the International Labour Organisation in assisting people forced into labour. [265360]

Bill Rammell: Our embassy in Rangoon has discussed the effectiveness of the supplementary understanding on forced labour with the office of the executive director of the International Labour Organisation (ILO). Our assessment is that the mechanism is continuing to produce results. Of 80 complaints referred to the Burmese authorities over the last year, all but eight have been seen some action to resolve them.

The military government has shown signs of genuine co-operation with the ILO. However, the problem of forced labour remains widespread and we are particularly concerned by the failure of the authorities to publicly condemn the practice and address its use by the military.

We will continue to support the work of the ILO in Burma.

Departmental Art Works

Daniel Kawczynski: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs which works of art the Government Art Collection has loaned for display in the *(a)* private offices and *(b)* official residences of Ministers in his Department. [262897]

Gillian Merron: The information is as follows:

(a) Private offices

2527: Richard Cosway—James Seton, Vice Admiral; Governor of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, 1787 to 1798—oil painting

5153: Francis Grant—Sir Henry Pottinger (1789 to 1856) Governor of Hong Kong—oil painting

0/87: Joseph Nollekens—William Pitt (1759 to 1806) Prime Minister—marble bust

11994: L Alfred Brunet-Debaines—Houses of Parliament—engraving

2367: Edwin Whitney-Smith—Ernest Bevin (1881 to 1951) trade unionist and politician—bronze sculpture

3879: Anon British 18C—View of Horse Guards, showing New Horse Guards—oil painting

8533: William George Gillies—Peeblesshire Landscape—oil painting

11449: John Everett Millais—Hubert von Herkomer—Benjamin Disraeli, Earl of Beaconsfield (1804-81) Prime Minister

13207: John Davies—Sand Dunes, Maghara, Co. Donegal—photograph

14332: Donald McIntyre—Crail, Fife—acrylic painting

11768: Victor Pasmore—Hear the Sound of a Magic Tune—3/25—screenprint

12002: William Scott—Cup and Pan Blues—99/100—screenprint

12122: Patrick Caulfield—Signature Pots—31/70—screenprint

12729: R B Kitaj—The Congo and other Poems-In Our Time: Covers for a Small Library After the Life for the Most Part—37/150—screenprint

12731: R B Kitaj—Benia Krik—In Our Time: Covers for a Small Library After the Life for the Most Part—37/150—screenprint

2439: Molly Guion—The Queen's Beasts—Oil painting

11912: John Terence Holden—Homage—acrylic painting

14918: Graham Sutherland—L'Éléphant [The Elephant]—"Le Bestiaire, ou Cortège d'Orphée" by Apollinaire—3/75—etching | aquatint

6705: Thomas Picken—View of the Harbour, St. George's, Grenada, West Indies—lithograph

6706: William Simpson—View of the Town and Harbour, St. George's, Grenada, West Indies—lithograph

18180/1: John Latham—Tadpole-Taffrail—(five photo etchings)—20/30—etching

18180/2: John Latham—Boy-Girl—(five photo etchings)—20/30—etching

18180/3: John Latham—Ben—(five photo etchings)—20/30—etching

18180/4: John Latham—Presumed Level of Abstraction—(five photo etchings)—20/30—etching

18180/5: John Latham—Flat Time 1-10 (Neg)—(five photo etchings)—20/30—etching

12788: Geraldine Brock—Prayer in an Eastern Garden—textile

(b) Official Residences

360: James Fitton—Market—watercolour painting

613: Fred Millett—Blandford Place—watercolour painting

1081: Anthony Gross—Albatross—watercolour painting

1556: Anon 16C—James Basire I—The Encampment of the English Forces near Portsmouth, together with a View of the English and French Fleets at the Commencement of the Action between them on the XIXth of July MDXLV

1763: William Callow—Off Dover—watercolour painting

1829: Anthony Gross—Cricket Match—watercolour painting

2451: B A Keogh—The Procession in Whitehall, Coronation—gouache painting

2464: Leonard Rosoman—The Coronation Procession in the Mall, from Admiralty Arch—watercolour painting

2721: Anthony Gross—Fairground at Hampstead Heath—watercolour painting

3112: N A L Miller—The Royal Yacht from Portsmouth Harbour—watercolour painting

3272: Anthony Gross—The Tower Promenade—watercolour painting

3896: Prunella Clough—Trawlnet—Oil painting

4622: Walter Richard Sickert—Laylock and Thunderplump—oil painting

4888: Jacques Emile Blanche—Julia Duckworth (1846-95) née Jackson, later Lady Stephen; mother of Virginia Woolf and Vanessa Bell (after a photograph c1864 to 1867 by Julia Margaret Cameron)—Oil painting

4911: Thomas C Hofland—Robert Havell Snr—View of Frogmore House, Windsor, Berkshire—aquatint

4958: John Arthur Dodgson—Lucca—oil painting

5794: Anthony Gross—London Scene, Junction of Old Street and Great Eastern Street—watercolour painting

5951: William Westall—Richard Gilson Reeve—Windsor Castle, from Eton—Picturesque tour of the River Thames—aquatint

6124: Thomas C Hofland—Robert Havell Snr—Bolton Priory, Twilight No.2—aquatint

7881: Samuel and Nathaniel Buck—The East Prospect of Derby

8023: Samuel and Nathaniel Buck—The South West Prospect of Manchester, in the County Palatine of Lancaster

10053: Eric Erskine Tufnell—Clipper Ship Britannia—watercolour painting

10137: William Woollett—A View of the Great Room etc. at Hall-Barn near Beaconsfield in Buckinghamshire, a Seat of Edmund Waller Esq./Veüe de la Grand Sale &c. a Hall-Barn dans la Comté de Bucks, appertenant a Edmund Waller Ecuyer—engraving

10142: William Woollett—A View of Part of the Garden at Hall-Barn near Beckonsfield in Buckinghamshire, a Seat of Edmund Waller Esq./Veüe d'une Partie du Jardin a Hall-Barn, dans la Comté de Bucks, appartenant a Edmund Waller Ecuyer

11675: Edward Wolfe—Norfolk Landscape—oil painting

12038: Thomas Badeslade—William Henry Toms—The North-East Prospect of Chirk Castle in Denbighshire—engraving

12553: Keith Vaughan—Lane in Shere—oil painting

12870: William Henry Pyne—Coal Heavers—The Costume of Great Britain—aquatint

1443: William Gaunt—The Day War Was Declared—watercolour painting

15127: Norman Wilkinson—The "Winston Churchill" goes to Sea—oil painting

16211: Winston Spencer Churchill—Seascape—oil painting

17252: Jack Smith—Still Life with Plaice—oil painting

Departmental Training

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether his Department has provided voice coaching to any of its employees in the last 12 months. [260648]

Bill Rammell: 'Voice coaching' is not a term recognised in the Foreign and Commonwealth Office's internal management information systems.

Diego Garcia: Rendition

Mr. Tyrie: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the Answer of 5 March 2009, *Official Report*, column 1747W, on Guantánamo Bay: detainees, for what reasons he is unable to provide further information on the matter; and whether his Department has been informed of the names of the two detainees rendered through Diego Garcia. [263671]

Bill Rammell *[holding answer 13 March 2009]*: We are unable to provide further information on this matter other than that given by my right hon. Frie[illegible] the Foreign Secretary in his statement of 21 February [illegible]08, *Official Report*, column 547.

Hezbollah

Mr. Ancram: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what official contact there has been between the Government and representatives of Hezbollah in Lebanon in the last two months. [265450]

Bill Rammell: There has been no contact since 9 January 2009 when our ambassador in Beirut met the Lebanese Parliament's Foreign Affairs Committee including Hezbollah MP, Ali Amaar.

Middle East: Peace Negotiations

Mr. Ancram: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent discussions he has had with the US administration on holding discussions with *(a)* Hamas and *(b)* Hezbollah. [265389]

Bill Rammell: In our ongoing discussions with the US Administration we continue to share the assessment that Hamas has not moved sufficiently towards rejecting violence, accepting Israel's right to exist or recognising previous agreements for either the UK or the US to hold discussions with Hamas.

We have also kept the US informed of our decision to explore carefully targeted contacts with Hezbollah elected officials.

Nepal: Politics and Government

John Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent reports he has received of the work of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission in Nepal; and if he will make a statement. [265463]

Bill Rammell: We welcome the steps the government of Nepal has taken towards the establishment of a Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) as mandated by the Comprehensive Peace Agreement. We have urged them to ensure that the TRC bill is drafted on a consensus basis, so that all those involved in and affected by the conflict share ownership of the process, and that it is compliant with international human rights standards. Facing up to and dealing with the human rights abuses committed by both sides during the conflict is the key to concluding the peace process and laying the foundations for a sustainable democracy based on the rule of law and respect for human rights. We are ready to support this process.

John Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment he has made of the progress made with the Comprehensive Peace Accord in Nepal. [265464]

Bill Rammell: The Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA) of November 2006 paved the way for successful elections in April 2008 for a Constituent Assembly, the most inclusive and representative institution in Nepal's history. This has given Nepal the opportunity to write a constitution which will enshrine in law a democratic system which will guarantee respect for human rights. Unfortunately, the consensus among political parties which allowed the elections to take place is fracturing, and progress has been slow both on drafting the constitution and on addressing the commitments given in the CPA on issues such as land reform and the establishment of a Truth and Reconciliation Commission.

We are particularly concerned at the lack of progress on the future of Maoist ex-combatants in the People's Liberation Army (PLA). The government has still not made any progress on the discharge of the almost 3,000 child soldiers identified by the UN Mission in Nepal (UNMIN), or the other ex-combatants disqualified by UNMIN. We and other international partners have voiced our concerns about this and about the recent recruitment campaigns by both the Nepal Army and the PLA in violation of the CPA. We acknowledge that integration of the two armies will be a difficult issue to resolve, but have told the government that a failure to make progress risks endangering the peace process and that we, UN agencies and other donors stand ready to assist.

Pakistan: Religious Freedom

Dan Rogerson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent discussions he has had with the government of Pakistan on *(a)* the treatment of the Ahmadi Muslim community and *(b)* section 298C of the Pakistani Penal Code. [265783]

Bill Rammell *[holding answer 23 March 2009]*: In February 2009, my hon. Friend Gillian Merron, Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, visited Pakistan and met with Shahbaz Bhatti, Pakistan's Minister for Minority Affairs. During this visit, she raised concerns about the difficulties faced by religious minorities in Pakistan, including the Christian and Ahmadi communities and the mis-use of blasphemy legislation (section 289C in the Pakistani Penal Code).

With EU partners we have also made a series of démarches to the government of Pakistan on protecting religious minorities. In January this year we démarched the government of Pakistan to promote tolerance, and take measures to protect freedom of religion or belief. This démarche also called for the reform of discriminatory legislation and urged the Minister for Minority Affairs to raise awareness about abuses against minorities and to increase their political representation at all levels.

In July 2008, we issued a démarche with EU partners calling on the government of Pakistan to specifically protect religious freedoms and human rights of the Ahmadis.

Sodexo

Mark Pritchard: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what reports he has received of allegations of involvement by Sodexo in breaches of human rights at *(a)* Guantánamo Bay and *(b)* Abu Ghraib. [260627]

Bill Rammell: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office has no record of receiving reports of allegations of involvement by Sodexo in breaches of human rights at Guantanamo Bay or Abu Ghraib.

Sri Lanka: Foreign Relations

Andrew George: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent discussions he has had with his counterparts in the *(a)* UN Security Council and *(b)* Commonwealth on the standing of the government of Sri Lanka in (i) the international community and (ii) each institution. [265382]

Bill Rammell: My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary continues discuss the situation in Sri Lanka with UN Security Council and Commonwealth counterparts as the opportunity arises. As the Foreign Secretary has made clear to this House on many occasions, our priority is for the safety of civilians trapped in the fighting in northern Sri Lanka. We will continue to engage with the government of Sri Lanka and international partners to try to alleviate the situation.

Sri Lanka: Politics and Government

Mr. Burstow: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will call for a briefing to be made to the United Nations Security Council on the political situation in Sri Lanka; if he will propose a Security Council resolution calling for a ceasefire and unfettered access for UN monitors, relief and human rights agencies and the media; and if he will make a statement. [265716]

Bill Rammell: I refer the hon. Member to my right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary's response to a similar question on 24 February 2009, *Official Report*, column 141W. We have been working in the UN to ensure the Security Council gets a full briefing on the situation in Sri Lanka. We welcome the briefing given to the UN Security Council by John Holmes, UN Under-Secretary General for Humanitarian Affairs, following his visit to Sri Lanka in February. We regularly discuss the situation in Sri Lanka with our partners in the UN Security Council and continue, with them, to monitor the situation carefully.

My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary has called for a humanitarian ceasefire, access for humanitarian agencies and independent monitoring on a number of occasions. The Foreign Secretary has discussed the situation in Sri Lanka with a number of UN Security Council, Commonwealth and EU counterparts, and is in regular contact with the Sri Lankan President and Minister for Foreign Affairs. We will continue to engage with the government of Sri Lanka and international partners to try to alleviate the situation.

Sudan: Peacekeeping Operations

Mr. Gregory Campbell: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will have discussions with the United Nations on recent reports of deaths of and injuries to peacekeepers in Darfur. [265784]

Gillian Merron *[holding answer 23 March 2009]*: The recent reports of deaths and injuries to peacekeepers in Darfur are cause for grave concern. The UK condemns any acts of violence against the UN Peacekeeping Mission to Darfur (UNAMID), and calls on all parties, including the government of Sudan, to ensure the safety of UN personnel in the region. We have frequent discussions with the UN on UNAMID and the security situation in Darfur. Both my right hon. Friends the Prime Minister and the Foreign Secretary are kept closely updated on developments.

Tibet: Human Rights

Fiona Mactaggart: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent steps he has taken to promote the human rights concerns of the people of Tibet in *(a)* bilateral and *(b)* multilateral forums; and if he will make a statement. [264375]

Bill Rammell: We continue to have concerns about the human rights of Tibetans both in Tibet and the surrounding regions. Most recently, my right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary took up the question of Tibet with Foreign Minister Jang Jiechi at the UK-China Summit in February. My right hon. Friend the Prime Minister also raised it with Premier Wen Jiabao at that Summit. As Minister of State for Asia I have also raised Tibet during talks in Beijing with both Assistant Foreign Minister Wu Hongbo and Vice-Minister Sita of the United Front Work Department on 20 January. The UK also raised concerns about human rights of Tibetans during China's appearance before the Universal Periodic Review in Geneva on 9 February 2009.

Tibet: Politics and Government

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the answer of 19 January 2009, *Official Report*, column 2204W, on Tibet: politics and government, what consideration he gave to seeking specific undertakings from the Chinese government in advance of the change of UK policy on Tibet. [259345]

Bill Rammell: We consider that it would have been inappropriate to negotiate on this matter with the Chinese Government before setting out the position to this House. The change of policy reflects practical reality and is justified in its own right. By setting out our position unambiguously on the status of Tibet it allows us to speak clearly on the subject of human rights there, without allowing others to claim that we are denying China sovereignty over a large part of its territory.

CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

Departmental Electricity Generation

Simon Hughes: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much has been spent by his Department on *(a)* capital expenditure and *(b)* maintenance and running costs for standby diesel generators for backup electricity on the departmental estate in each year since March 1997. [264092]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The Department has spent the following on its standby diesel generator. Information prior to 2005 is not available.

£

	Capital expenditure	Maintenance and running costs
2005-06	0	455
2006-07	0	455
2007-08	98,747	505
2008-09	0	505

Public Libraries

Ben Chapman: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what guidance his Department provides to local authorities on requirements on *(a)* the number of libraries per head of population and *(b)* the location of libraries for provision of a comprehensive and efficient library service. [266130]

Barbara Follett: DCMS's role is to provide the library sector with strategic vision and leadership, rather than to specify the detail of service delivery appropriate to specific communities across the country.

The Public Library Service Standards, introduced in 2001 and withdrawn from April 2008, did not include targets for *(a)* the number of libraries per head of population or *(b)* the location of libraries, although PLSS 1 addressed resident proximity to a library, and varied according to the type of authority (inner and outer London, metropolitan, unitary and county). Failure to meet one or more of the Standards, including PLSS1, did not necessarily signify a breach of the Public Libraries and Museums Act (1964).

In October last year, the Secretary of State launched the Library Service Modernisation Review which will outline Government's vision for a modern, world-class public library service. The findings, setting out some of the necessary steps to support all local authorities in providing continuously improving, excellent library services will be published in June.

Public Libraries: Wirral

Ben Chapman: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport if he will consult local library users and library staff on the effects of the proposed closure of public libraries in Wirral on library services in the area. [266302]

Barbara Follett: It is the important responsibility of local authorities, not central Government, to consult their residents on the impact of any significant changes to service delivery they propose. DCMS's role is to provide the library sector with strategic vision and leadership, not to specify the detail of service delivery appropriate to specific communities across the country.

TRANSPORT

Bus Services: Training

Mark Hunter: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what guidance his Department issues to bus operators on driver training in respect of interaction with passengers who are *(a)* disabled, *(b)* elderly, *(c)* young and *(d)* difficult or aggressive. [264159]

Paul Clark: Drivers have duties with regard to the care of passengers under The Public Service Vehicles (Conduct of Drivers, Inspectors, Conductors and Passengers) Regulations 1990. The Department has published guidance for both drivers and operators to accompany the regulations.

Bus and coach drivers are also required to undertake additional training as part of the recently introduced 'Driver Certificate of Professional Competence' which was introduced in late 2008. This will include areas such as disability awareness and customer service.

Cycling: North East

Mr. Kemp: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many miles of cycle lanes have been introduced in each county in the North East since 2001. [265025]

Paul Clark: This information is no longer collected centrally by the Department for Transport as part of our drive to reduce the burden upon local authorities in respect of the information we request annually from them.

However we do hold some historical information which is produced in the following table. The data are not verified by the department.

Cycle lanes 2001-07

		2001-02	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07
Highway authority	*GO*	*km*	*km*	*km*	*km*	*km*	*km*
Darlington	NE	1	0	0	1	1	0
Durham	NE	4	0	—	6	—	6
Gateshead	NE	2	3	1	1	1	1
Hartlepool	NE	0	0	2	2	1	0
Middlesbrough	NE	1	6	2	1	4	0
Newcastle upon Tyne	NE	5	—	3	—	—	1
North Tyneside	NE	5	0	3	—	—	—
Northumberland	NE	4	9	6	—	—	—
Redcar and Cleveland	NE	2	8	1	0	—	—
South Tyneside	NE	1	6	0	0	—	—
Stockton-on-Tees	NE	2	2	4	0	1	0
Sunderland	NE	0	0	0	0	—	—

Departmental Conditions of Employment

Mr. Leech: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport pursuant to the answer of 10 March 2009, *Official Report*, column 362W, on departmental conditions of employment, whether any civil servants have worked on the flexible benefits project. [264703]

Mr. Hoon: The project has been lead by a senior civil servant with support from others in addition to their other duties.

Departmental Data Protection

Anne Main: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) whether his Department uses WPA2 encryption protocol on all its wireless networks; [259828]

(2) what auditing his Department undertakes to ensure that IT security policies are being followed; and on how many occasions *(a)* IT security policies have been breached by employees and *(b)* a member of staff has been sanctioned for a breach of such policies in the last 12 months; [259829]

(3) if he will place in the Library a copy of his Department's IT security hierarchy; [259830]

(4) what scanning for vulnerabilities his Department conducts of each of its IT devices; what method is used for IT device scans; and how many vulnerabilities have been detected as a result of such scans in the last 12 months; [259831]

(5) what IT security policy his Department has; what procedures are in place to ensure the policy is being followed; what his Department's policy is on encryption of data when they leave departmental premises; and what sanctions are in place for failure to comply with this policy. [259847]

Mr. Hoon: Information is a key asset to Government and its correct handling is vital to the delivery of public services and to the integrity of HMG. The Security Policy Framework, the Data Handling Report and the National Information Assurance Strategy produced by the Cabinet Office provide a strategic framework for protecting information that Government handle and put in place a set of mandatory measures which Departments must adhere to.

The Department for Transport has IT security policies to protect its IT systems to an appropriate level so as to maintain the availability, integrity and confidentiality of the information they contain. These policies are subject to internal audit processes to ensure they are being followed. The Department has specific policy to ensure that all sensitive information leaving the Department is protected, through the use of secure channels, specific handling instructions or by the use of appropriate encryption. The Department is currently reviewing its IT security policies, procedures and compliance mechanisms to ensure compliance with the security policies contained in the Government Security Policy Framework including those for information security and assurance. Depending upon the circumstances, a range of sanctions are available including disciplinary or administrative action, and in extreme or persistent cases, termination of employment/services and, if appropriate, criminal proceedings.

It is not in the interest of the security of the Department, or that of the public, to disclose detailed information pertaining to its security hierarchy or electronic breaches of security of Department's IT systems. Disclosing such information would enable criminals and those who would attempt to cause disruptive threats to the Department to deduce how to conduct attacks and therefore potentially enhance their capability to carry out such attacks.

Except in exceptional circumstances the Department does not comment on specific technical measures it employs to protect its networks. However, the Department follows CESG guidance on the use of the Wi-Fi Protected Access 2 (WPA2) communications security protocols in order to protect wireless networks carrying protectively marked (up to restricted/IL3) traffic. The configuration and operation standards for WPA2 are set out in CESG's Infosec Manual Y, Use of WPA2 Wireless Security in Government Systems. The Department is compliant with HMG IA Standard No. 4—Communication, Security and Cryptography for the encryption of data.

Compliance arrangements comprise a system of self assessment, accreditation, assurance reporting, audit and review. Records held centrally show that in the last 12 months IT security policies have been broken by staff on 34 occasions and seven staff members have been sanctioned for such breaches.

Departmental Expenditure Limits

Stephen Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what assumptions he has made in respect of his Department's capital departmental expenditure limits for transport in *(a)* each year from 2010-11 to 2014-15 and *(b)* subsequent years. [265943]

Mr. Hoon: The Department's capital departmental expenditure limit (DEL) for 2010-11 was published in pre-Budget report 2008 (Facing global challenges: Supporting people through difficult times CM 7484). The Department's long-term funding guideline was set out in Comprehensive Spending Review 2007 (Meeting the aspirations of the British people CM 7227).

Departmental Lost Property

John Mason: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what property has been lost or stolen from his Department in the last 12 months; and what the estimated cost was of replacement of such property. [263116]

Mr. Hoon: The Department for Transport was formed in 2002 and includes seven agencies, a shared service centre and the central Department, with a total staff of over 19,000. The figures provided here for lost and stolen property are for the entire Department including its agencies and shared service centre.

The number of items of lost and stolen property from the Department in the last 12 months and their total estimated replacement cost are as follows.

	Number of items	Total estimated replacement cost (£)
Laptop computers	11	12,028.00
Desktop computers	6	6,072.00
BlackBerrys	22	5,640.00
Printer	1	500.00
Satellite Navigation device	2	300.00
Mobile phone	1	100.00
Leads and Adaptor	2	100.00
Gas Monitoring Device	1	100.00
Overalls	2	88.12
Secure Dial fob	1	50.00
Memory stick	1	10.00

Departmental Manpower

Justine Greening: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many *(a)* permanent, *(b)* agency and *(c)* temporary staff on contracts of (i) up to three months, (ii) between three and six months, (iii) between six and 12 months and (iv) 12 months or more there are in each directorate of his Department. [264292]

Mr. Hoon: This information is not held centrally by the Department of Transport and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what the forecast change is to the number of posts in each of his Department's bargaining units by the end of 2009-10. [265576]

Mr. Hoon *[holding answer 23 March 2009]:* The following table shows the forecast change in headcount (permanent staff and those on fixed term contracts), expressed as full-time equivalents, between 31 March 2009 and 31 March 2010 in the centre of the Department for Transport and each of the Department's bargaining units.

	Estimate for 31 March 2009	Forecast for 31 March 2010	Change
Department for Transport Centre[1]	1,930	1,930	0
Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency	6,329	6,328	-1
Driving Standards Agency	2,672	2,650	-22
Highways Agency	3,557	3,557	0
Maritime and Coastguard Agency	1,127	1,127	0
Vehicle Certification Agency	139	140	1
Vehicle and Operator Services Agency	2,762	2,679	-83
Government Car and Despatch Agency	317	317	0

[1] DfT Centre is still finalising business plans for 2009-10, but the forecast for 31 March 2010 is expected to be similar to the 2008-09 out-turn.

Departmental Pay

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what the average basic pay for full-time equivalent *(a)* men and *(b)* women in (i) AA, (ii) AO and (iii) EO or equivalent grades is in each of his Department's bargaining units. [265575]

Mr. Hoon *[holding answer 23 March 2009]:* The current average basic pay for men and women within each of the Department's Bargaining Units is shown in the following table. London and outside London salaries are included within the averages shown. Allowances are not included.

£

	AA		AO		EO	
	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male
DFT(C)	17,479	20,100	22,231	22,086	26,425	26,867
VOSA	15,474	15,401	18,986	18,784	23,851	23,833
DVLA	14,911	14,879	17,619	17,572	21,742	21,766
VGA	15,927	17,875	18,555	18,694	24,186	24,553
HA	16,455	15,739	17,168	17,253	21,055	20,980
MCA	14,227	14,155	17,139	17,298	22,278	23,512
DSA	17,261	15,837	18,894	17,519	23,694	23,412
GCDA	—	—	20,936	20,718	25,734	26,043

There are only a small number of staff in some of the grades which may affect the statistical significance of the salary levels shown. Additionally there are some differences in grading structures between the Department's businesses so it is not always possible to make direct salary comparisons based on grade. For example the salary range shown for VOSA at AA contains level 1 and level 2 VOSA staff. The above table is therefore a best fit only and this should be taken into account when reference is made to the salary levels.

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what the current pay *(a)* minima and *(b)* maxima are for staff at each grade from AA to Grade 6 outside London in each of his Department's bargaining units. [265577]

Mr. Hoon *[holding answer 23 March 2009]*: The current pay minima and maxima applicable within the individual bargaining units in the Department for Transport for staff at each grade from AA to Grade 6 outside London are:

£

		AA	*AO*	*EO*	*HEO*	*SEO*	*Grade 7*	*Grade 6*
DfT(G)	Minimum	16,169	19,426	22,838	27,653	33,516	42,643	52,406
	Maximum	16,169	20,355	25,038	31,694	39,225	51,781	63,635
HA	Minimum	15,739	16,345	19,833	24,563	36,308	43,412	52,813
	Maximum	15,739	18,131	22,552	34,385	42,526	50,846	61,547
DVLA	Minimum	13,713	16,500	19,498	25,322	31,768	41,045	56,854
	Maximum	15,000	17,725	23,020	28,000	35,360	51,665	63,130
DSA	Minimum	13,647	15,317	20,390	24,743	31,856	39,034	50,547
	Maximum	16,464	19,595	24,322	29,977	37,833	51,434	62,399
MCA	Minimum	13,260	15,066	20,180	24,372	31,299	40,875	49,128
	Maximim	14,657	19,073	25,540	30,852	44,352	51,822	62,284
VOSA	Minimum	13,242	17,017	21,260	26,351	32,816	41,786	54,497
	Maximum	14,223	19,562	26,099	30,231	37,648	56,830	64,787
VCA	Minimum	13,900	16,800	21,000	26,000	34,550	43,500	56,900
	Maximum	16,250	18,610	25,400	34,450	42,700	56,750	65,820

There are some differences in grading structures between the Department's businesses so it is not always possible to make direct salary comparisons based on grade. For example the salary figures shown for VOSA at AA contains level 1 and level 2 VOSA staff. The table is therefore a best fit only and this should be taken into account when reference is made to the salary levels.

Departmental Public Expenditure

Mr. Goodwill: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many staff in his Department are responsible for monitoring the expenditure of each of its executive agencies. [264727]

Mr. Hoon *[holding answer 19 March 2009]*: The Department for Transport is structured into five groups, each headed by a Director General (DG). Each DG group has an embedded finance team that monitors the financial activity of that group. The Department has four executive agencies and they report into three of these DG groups. The work of the embedded finance teams within these three DG groups includes reviewing the executive agency's outturn. This is completed on a monthly basis with information being passed to the central finance teams and subsequently, in a summarised format, to the Department's Executive Committee.

Departmental Recruitment

Justine Greening: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport pursuant to the answer of 23 February 2009, *Official Report*, columns 487-88W, on departmental recruitment, what estimate he has made of the annual salary cost of *(a)* permanent, *(b)* temporary and *(c)* agency staff recruited by his Department in each year since 2005-06. [264289]

Mr. Hoon: Details of staff salaries are published in departmental annual reports and accounts.

Departmental Temporary Employment

Justine Greening: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what his Department's policy is on the renewal of the contracts of *(a)* temporary and *(b)* agency staff. [264291]

Mr. Hoon: The recruitment of temporary staff is governed by the Civil Service Commissioners Recruitment Code. The Department of Transport has contracts with employment agencies for the supply of agency staff.

Departmental Written Questions

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will place in the Library a copy of his Department's internal round robin guidance for each round robin Parliamentary Question tabled to his Department since December 2008; and if he will make a statement. [259062]

Mr. Hoon: In its response to the Third Report of Session 2003-04 from the Public Administration Select Committee, the Government made clear that while individual Departments may liaise with each other when they receive the same question, this co-ordination

> "does not cut across the line of ministerial accountability which is that it is for individual Ministers to decide on the final content of an answer to a Parliamentary Question".

The Department for Transport has provided advice to other Government Departments on this basis.

Driving Offences: Insurance

Mark Hunter: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what estimate he has made of the number of uninsured drivers aged *(a)* under 18, *(b)* between 19 and 24, *(c)* between 25 and 32, *(d)* between 33 and 45, *(e)* between 46 and 65 and *(f)* over 65 years. [266161]

Jim Fitzpatrick: There is no information held on the total number of uninsured drivers by age. However, the following table shows findings of guilt in court for the offence of using a motor vehicle uninsured against third party risk by age of offender for the period 2004 to 2006.

Findings of guilt at all courts for offences of using motor vehicle uninsured against third party risk[1] by age group of offender, England and Wales, 2004-06

Number of offences

	All ages	*10-20*	*21-30[2]*	*31-40*	*41-50*	*51-60*	*61-70*	*71-80*	*81 and over*
2004	322,816	74,021	160,236	59,655	21,945	5,502	1,198	207	52
2005	299,345	61,223	147,423	52,370	21,485	5,430	1,156	194	64
2006	267,670	50,562	136,850	50,139	22,504	5,987	1,315	239	74

[1] Offence under s143(2) Road Traffic Act 1988.

[2] Default age of 25 recorded when age not known.

Notes:

1. It is known that for some police force areas, the reporting of court proceedings in particular those relating to summary motoring offences, may be less than complete.

2. Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their limitations are taken into account when these data are used.

Driving Offences: Mobile Phones

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what estimate he has made of the *(a)* number and *(b)* percentage of drivers who have used a mobile telephone whilst driving in the last 12 months. [264091]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The following table summarises the main results from the latest annual observational survey of drivers using mobile phones. The full report will be published shortly.

Percentage[1] of drivers using mobile phones on weekdays, by survey

Percentage

	September 2006	*August 2007*	*October 2007*	*September 2008*
Car drivers				
Hand-held	1.7	1.0	1.0	1.1
Hands-free	0.9	0.4	0.6	0.5
Overall	2.5	1.4	1.6	1.5
Other drivers				
Hand-held	2.9	2.4	1.9	2.2
Hands-free	1.2	0.6	1.0	1.1
Overall	3.9	3.0	2.9	3.3

[1] Percentage of drivers using a mobile phone, weighted by distance travelled on each road type.

Note:

that it is not possible to record the use of hands-free mobile phones accurately on motorways because of the speed of the traffic.

The results are based on a total sample of around 80,000 cars and 20,000 other vehicles observed on weekdays at 30 sites in the South East of England. The overall results have been weighted to reflect the distribution of traffic in Great Britain by road type.

Government Car and Despatch Agency: Expenditure

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how much the Government Car and Despatch Agency spent on *(a)* London congestion charge (i) payments and (ii) fines and *(b)* fines for (i) speeding and (ii) parking in each of the last five years. [265292]

Jim Fitzpatrick *[holding answer 20 March 2009]*: The Government Car and Despatch Agency (GCDA) has paid the following fines and London congestion charges:

£

	Total parking fines	*Congestion charges*	*Congestion charge fines*
2003-04	7,570	179,465.50	160
2004-05	5,610	158,508.00	160
2005-06	7,470	146,846.20	Nil
2006-07	5,980	195,305.90	50
2007-08	15,930	109,538.00	Nil

The agency has paid no speeding fines.

Government Car and Dispatch Agency : Finance

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what the cost of the Government Car and Despatch Agency was in each year since 1997; and how much has been allocated to the agency for *(a)* 2008-09 and *(b)* 2009-10. [265250]

Jim Fitzpatrick: Information about the cost of the Government Car and Despatch Agency (GCDA) has been published each year since 1998 in its annual report and accounts, copies of which are available in the Libraries of the House.

GCDA is an executive agency of the Department for Transport and is required to recover all the cost of its activities through charges to its customers. It does not therefore have an annual budget. GCDA has to compete with others to provide services to its customers, ensuring that the Agency operates as efficiently and as cost effectively as possible.

Heathrow Airport

Justine Greening: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what risks were entered in each version of the Project Heathrow project delivery and risk report in relation to the nature of the responses and outcomes of the Adding Capacity at Heathrow Airport public consultation; and if he will make a statement. [265910]

Jim Fitzpatrick *[holding answer 23 March 2009]:* Two such risks were noted: during 2007, the risk that the volume of consultation responses might impact on the timetable for eventual decisions; and in the period April to August 2008, the risk that ministerial decisions might be hampered by lack of clarity in the consultation analysis report on the consultation questions.

Motor Vehicles: Imports

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many imported vehicles from each country were registered and licensed in each year since 2001. [264939]

Jim Fitzpatrick *[holding answer 20 March 2009]:* The Department for Transport does not hold comprehensive statistics on the number of vehicles imported into Great Britain from 2002 onwards.

During 2001 there were 68,000 newly registered vehicles that were identified as having been previously registered or used overseas prior to registration in Great Britain. The Department does not hold information on the country in which these vehicles were previously registered or used.

Official Cars

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) how many cars the Government Car and Despatch Agency has *(a)* purchased and *(b)* sold in each of the last five years; [265248]

(2) how many cars the Government Car and Despatch Agency *(a)* owned and *(b)* leased in each of the last five years. [265251]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The Government Car and Despatch Agency accounted for its car assets since 2003-04 as follows.

	Purchased	*Sold*	*Owned*	*Leased*
2007-08	18	36	213	0
2006-07	85	75	224	0
2005-06	63	94	226	0
2004-05	42	70	251	0
2003-04	32	43	[1]—	[1]—

[1] The vehicle asset register information for 2003-04 is not readily available and this could only be obtained at a disproportionate cost.

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how much the Government Car and Despatch Agency spent on fuel in each of the last five years. [265249]

Jim Fitzpatrick: Since 2003-04 the Government Car and Despatch Agency has spent £3,352,937 on vehicle fuels as follows.

£

	2003-04	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*
Petrol	414,493	403,895	449,7[illegible]	390,574	303,139
Diesel	192,161	193,550	225,13[illegible]	265,025	371,055
LPG	26,100	35,162	48,29[illegible]	32,583	1,982

Railways: Employment

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) pursuant to the statement of 12 February 2009, *Official Report*, columns 1531-44, on new trains (investment), on what information his estimate of the 12,500 long-term jobs expected to be created or safeguarded by the contract to re-equip the East Coast and Great Western Main Lines with new express trains is based; [265055]

(2) which assumption was made about the number of additional jobs in the supply chain which would be created for each directly-created job in the methodology used to estimate the 12,500 long-term jobs expected to be created or safeguarded by the contract to re-equip the East Coast and Great Western Main Lines with new inter-city express trains. [265056]

Paul Clark *[holding answer 20 March 2009]:* Agility Trains advises that it has adopted an industry standard multiplier assumption, used with regard to the automotive industry, that each direct job will create, or secure, around four jobs within the supply chain and the wider economy.

Railways: Greater Manchester

Mark Hunter: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many train services on average ran on Saturdays in *(a)* 2008 and *(b)* 2009 between Manchester and (i) Heald Green, (ii) Bramhall, (iii) Cheadle Hulme, (iv) Gately, (v) Davenport, (vi) Hazel Grove and (vii) Woodsmoor. [266160]

Paul Clark: The Department for Transport does not hold the information at the level of detail requested. Network Rail is the custodian of timetable and performance data for the rail industry. The hon. Member should contact Network Rail's chief executive at the following address for a response to his question:

Iain Coucher
Chief Executive
Network Rail
Kings Place
90 York Way
London, N1 9AG

Roads: Accidents

Stephen Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) how many *(a)* accidents and *(b)* deaths on rural roads in which driving under the influence of illegal drugs was identified as a contributory factor there were in each (i) local authority area and (ii) constituency in each year since 1997; [264275]

(2) how many *(a)* accidents and *(b)* deaths on rural roads in which drink driving was identified as a contributory factor there were in each (i) local authority area and (ii) constituency in each year since 1997; [264276]

(3) how many *(a)* accidents and *(b)* deaths on rural roads in which excessive speed was identified as a contributory factor there were in each (i) local authority area and (ii) constituency in each year since 1997. [264277]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The tables show the numbers of *(a)* accidents and *(b)* deaths on rural roads in which 'impaired by drugs (illicit or medicinal)', 'impaired by alcohol' and 'exceeding speed limit' were identified as contributory factors in each Government office region since 2005.

Information on contributory factors is not available below Government office region level and is only available from 2005. Note that up to six contributory factors can be recorded for an accident, so same accidents may be counted in more than one table.

Accidents[1] on rural[2] roads with 'Impaired by drugs'[3] as a contributory factor

	2005		2006		2007	
Government office regions	*Accidents*	*Deaths*	*Accidents*	*Deaths*	*Accidents*	*Deaths*
North East	14	1	11	2	11	0
North West	22	5	22	12	26	1
Yorkshire and the Humber	11	1	17	3	26	1
East Midlands	15	1	20	5	17	4
West Midlands	19	2	19	2	18	1
East of England	46	11	38	7	49	10
South East	53	8	45	2	47	19
London	1	0	1	0	2	0
South West	31	4	19	1	32	3
Wales	25	2	15	0	17	4
Scotland	12	3	26	6	24	4
Great Britain	249	38	233	40	269	47

[1] Includes only accidents where a police officer attended the scene and in which a contributory factor was reported
[2] Excluding motorways
[3] Drugs can be illicit or medicinal

Accidents[1] on rural[2] roads with 'Impaired by alcohol' as a contributory factor

	2005		2006		2007	
Government office regions	*Accidents*	*Deaths*	*Accidents*	*Deaths*	*Accidents*	*Deaths*
North East	189	13	165	7	145	7
North West	247	15	272	16	251	7
Yorkshire and the Humber	205	10	218	8	258	16
East Midlands	322	11	315	23	331	20
West Midlands	334	18	335	16	294	11
East of England	473	19	442	25	438	23
South East	664	34	654	33	612	28
London	15	1	12	0	9	0
South West	391	17	288	5	333	8
Wales	211	9	215	11	245	12
Scotland	229	15	256	19	246	14
Great Britain	3,280	162	3,172	163	3,162	146

[1] Includes only accidents where a police officer attended the scene and in which a contributory factor was reported
[2] Excluding motorways

Accidents[1] on rural[2] roads with 'Exceeding speed limit' as a contributory factor

	2005		2006		2007	
Government office regions	*Accidents*	*Deaths*	*Accidents*	*Deaths*	*Accidents*	*Deaths*
North East	124	12	117	12	114	11
North West	247	31	261	29	247	25
Yorkshire and the Humber	189	26	222	28	228	21
East Midlands	304	17	342	28	393	27
West Midlands	348	21	316	29	331	15
East of England	381	22	409	26	363	28
South East	592	41	618	29	626	32
London	23	1	17	0	29	1
South West	423	30	310	15	330	26
Wales	234	14	235	19	235	13
Scotland	205	17	221	42	267	34

Accidents[1] on rural[2] roads with 'Exceeding speed limit' as a contributory factor

	2005		2006		2007	
Government office regions	*Accidents*	*Deaths*	*Accidents*	*Deaths*	*Accidents*	*Deaths*
Great Britain	3,070	232	3,068	257	3,163	233

[1] Includes only accidents where a police officer attended the scene and in which a contributory factor was reported

[2] Excluding motorways

Mr. Ancram: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what estimate he has made of the number of accidents in England on untreated roads during wintry conditions since 19 December 2008. [265437]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The information requested is not collected.

Traffic Lights: Greater London

Mr. Hands: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many traffic lights there were in each London borough in each of the last three years. [265854]

Jim Fitzpatrick: Traffic signals in London are the responsibility of the London Mayor and Transport for London (TfL), and questions should be directed to them.

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Building Regulations

Mr. Todd: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if she will review the effectiveness of building regulations as they relate to the environmental performance of foundation systems. [265333]

Mr. Iain Wright: Part A (Structure) of the Building Regulations, and its supporting guidance, is primarily concerned with structural safety and performance. There is nothing currently in the regulations that relate to the environmental performance of foundation systems.

However, Government are keen to improve further the sustainability of the construction process and buildings as set out in the "Strategy on Sustainable Construction", published by the Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform. As part of the Site Waste Management Plan Regulations, which came into force in 2008, developers are required to identify a planned waste management action for each different type of waste, including on and off-site reuse, recycling and disposal. In relation to foundation systems this can include reusing materials. In addition, in April 2007 we introduced the Code for Sustainable Homes to encourage the development of more sustainable homes. To reach the minimum Code Standards, homes need to consider the environmental performance of all materials used in all elements of the building, which includes the foundations.

We are currently undertaking a review of Part A of the Building Regulations, and its supporting guidance documents, and we are due to consult on the proposed changes in the summer.

Community Relations

Patrick Mercer: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much funding her Department has provided to the Institute for Community Cohesion for its project gathering information on social cohesion through surveys and focus groups under the Prevent strand of Project Contest; and when the findings of the project will be published. [264886]

Mr. Khan: Communities and Local Government has not commissioned the Institute for Community Cohesion to gather information on social cohesion through surveys and focus groups under the Prevent strand of Project Contest, and as such has not provided any money to the institute for such a project.

Patrick Mercer: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer of 6 March 2009, *Official Report*, column 476W, on community relations, what research other than that commissioned from the Tavistock Institute and De Montfort University has been commissioned by her Department into *(a)* social cohesion and *(b)* contributing factors to violent extremism in each year since 2005. [264901]

Mr. Khan: The programmes of research carried out by Communities and Local Government, to understand social cohesion, and to understand contributing factors to violent extremism, include both qualitative and quantitative research.

The Citizenship Survey, a large scale household survey collecting data on various community attitudes, continues to provide a range of relevant information. NatCen have managed this since 2005 and will continue to run this until 1 April 2009 when a consortium of Ipsos Mori and BMRB take over the contract. Headline data are published quarterly and the anonymised dataset is subsequently published on Essex Data archive.

We also commissioned the Change Institute to carry out research into 13 Muslim ethnic communities in England, to better understand the diversity of these communities in terms of history, characteristics, demography and potential pathways into the communities.

We have also worked closely with other Departments to ensure that government's own analysis of violent extremism considers the range of possible contributing factors.

Research is vital to underpin policies with evidence, and as such, there is also a plethora of research that has been carried out in this field at the local level, run by local authorities.

Communities and Local Government also commissioned:

Ipsos-MORI to carry out qualitative case study work in six areas on 'What works to improve Community Cohesion'.

http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/communities/whatworks

SQW Consulting to do 'Community Cohesion and Neighbourhood management: a pathfinder national evaluation'.

http://www.communities.gov.uk/documents/communities/pdf/986644.pdf

Ipsos-MORI to carry out local area cohesion surveys in a small number of areas (2005 and 2007). Reports are unpublished.

The National Community Forum to carry out a literature review on cross-community interactions.

http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/communities/enablingcrosscommunity

Laurence and Heath of Oxford University to carry out research called 'Predictors of Community Cohesion—multi-level modelling of Citizenship Survey data'.

http://www.communities.gov.uk/documents/communities/pdf/681539.pdf

In addition the Commission on Integration and Cohesion were tasked by Government to look at local and practical solutions to overcoming barriers to integration and cohesion

The Commission on Integration and Cohesion commissioned the following research and papers:

A think piece for the Commission on Integration and Cohesion—Professor Daniel Dorling

Belonging in contemporary Britain—Alessandra Buonfino with Louisa Thomson, Young Foundation

Bringing communities and people together—Comedia

Challenging attitudes, perceptions and myths—Miranda Lewis and Naomi Newman, IPPR

Community cohesion and deprivation—Asif Afridi, b:RAP

Community cohesion and the public interest—Professor Shamit Saggar

Evidence on Integration and cohesion—DTZ Consulting

French Lessons? A cross-channel look at Regeneration, Cohesion and Integration—Dr. Gareth Potts, British Urban Regeneration Association

Local decision-making and participation—Omar Khan and Rob Berkley, Runnymede Trust

New complexities of cohesion in Britain. Superdiversity, Transnationalism and Civil Integration—Professor Steven Vertovec, OMPAS

Public attitudes towards cohesion and integration—Ipsos MORI

Role of Faith as framing identity and influencing values, attitudes and behaviour of whole communities and the threat posed by 'enclavisation' in some northern towns Dr. Alan Billings and Dr. Andrew Holden, Lancaster University

The Practical Impacts of Translation: Findings and Recommendations Central Office of Information

All of this was made publicly available at:

http://collections.europarchive.org/tna/20080726153624/http://www.integrationandcohesion.org.uk/Research_documents.asp

Community Relations: West Midlands

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what recent steps her Department has taken to tackle extremism in *(a)* Coventry and *(b)* the West Midlands. [265066]

Mr. Khan: Regarding support that has been provided by my Department, Coventry was allocated £125,000 in 2008-09 through its area based grant to support work on preventing violent extremism. It has been allocated £150,000 and £162,000 in 2009-10 and 2010-11 respectively to develop activities outlined in their recently developed prevent action plan.

I understand that a Prevent Working Group has been developed in Coventry, made up of senior representatives from the police, council, other public agencies, universities and colleges, that will meet for the first time in April. The group will continue to steer and develop understanding of the national preventing violent extremism agenda; local issues and good practice from elsewhere.

Coventry has also recently developed a communications strategy to help mainstream messages to counter extremism and it is currently developing a programme of activities for young people from diverse communities, which explores issues of identity and challenging extremist ideology, and provides support to the most vulnerable.

West Midlands authorities will be allocated just under £5.5 million through area based grant between 2008-09 and 2010-11 to support activities to prevent violent extremism.

Examples of projects in the West Midlands that are helping to prevent violent extremism include work in Birmingham. The Capacity Building and Governance of Mosques programme aims to help build the capacity of Mosque Committees to improve leadership and ensure that women and young people participate in the development of the Mosque. In addition, the programme ensures that Mosques are in compliance with charity law and aware of the laws and regulations of the UK covering areas of Health and Safety, Child Protection and Criminal Record Bureau checks.

In addition since 2007, Communities and Local Government has funded over 70 projects to tackle violent extremism through the Preventing Violent Extremism Community Leadership Fund. Many of these projects have a national reach, however at least fifteen are working specifically in the West Midlands region. One of these projects has undertaken some focus groups with Muslim women in Coventry to discuss access to mosques for women. Further information on the Community Leadership Fund can be found at:

www.communities.gov.uk/news/corporate/1176921

Three members of the Young Muslim Advisory Group (YMAG), which my Department supports, are based in the West Midlands. YMAG members have met with Government Office for the West Midlands to discuss how they can support activities working with young people to prevent violent extremism in the region.

There are also two National Muslim Women's Advisory Group (NMWAG) members in the West Midlands, who are both based in Birmingham. Tasneem Mahmood developed a national project called "Hear My Voice" that was launched in Birmingham. The project works with disaffected Muslim youth by providing them with social entrepreneur and business enterprise skills to tackle their problems. Shaista Gohir is currently working on a Role Models Project as part of NMWAG to raise the profile of Muslim Female Role Models in the UK.

West Midlands authorities would be able to provide further information on their recent activity to prevent violent extremism. Further information on funding being made available through Area Based Grant in 2009/10 can be found at:

www.communities.gov.uk/documents/localgovernment/xls/780467118.xls

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Council Tax

Julia Goldsworthy: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what estimate she has made of the amount of uncollected council tax in England in each of the last five years. [266247]

John Healey: Details of the amount of council tax not collected in each of the last five years can be found in statistical releases published on the Community and Local Government website at:

http://www.local.communities.gov.uk/finance/stats/ctax.htm

It should be noted that collection of council tax continues after the financial year to which they relate has ended so the amount not collected will eventually be less than the figures derivable from the releases.

Departmental Electricity Generation

Simon Hughes: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much has been spent by her Department on *(a)* capital expenditure and *(b)* maintenance and running costs for standby diesel generators for backup electricity on the departmental estate in each year since March 1997. [264095]

Mr. Khan: Nil capital expenditure.

Expenditure on maintenance and running costs for the diesel back-up generator at the Department's HQ at Eland House since July 2004 is as follows.

Financial year	*£*
2004-05	560.00
2005-06	766.00
2006-07	568.00
2007-08	574.00
2008-09 (to date)	4,920.69

Note:
Figures prior to 2004 are not available.

There has been nil expenditure incurred at other premises falling within the current CLG estate.

Departmental Finance

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what expenditure her Department incurred as a result of overhanging debt repayments in each of the last five years; and if she will make a statement. [265080]

Mr. Khan: The table lists the amount of overhanging debt the Department has paid to the Public Works Loans Boards in respect of completed transfers in each of the last five financial years.

	£ million
2004-05	591
2005-06	386
2006-07	544
2007-08	1,213
2008-09	[1]515

[1] This includes overhanging debt for transfers we expect to be completed by the end of financial year 2008-09.

Departmental Ministerial Policy Advisers

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much has been claimed in reimbursable expenses by special advisers in her Department in 2008-09 to date. [260350]

Mr. Khan: Costs incurred on reimbursable expenses in 2008-09, will be available only when the Department's resource accounts are fully audited and laid before Parliament. This is expected to be before the 2009 summer recess.

Departmental Procurement

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer of 11 February 2009, *Official Report*, column 2064-5W, on departmental procurement, for what purposes beverages were purchased from Oddbins by the Deputy Prime Minister's Office. [264847]

Mr. Khan: Beverages were purchased for the purpose of official hospitality. All expenditure in the Deputy Prime Minister's Office was conducted in accordance with the principles of "Government Accounting" and the Treasury handbook on "Regularity and Propriety."

Departmental Public Consultation

Mr. Vara: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many public consultations her Department has carried out in the last 12 months; for how long each consultation was open; how many responses were received to each consultation; and what the cost was of conducting each consultation. [259729]

Mr. Khan: The number of public consultations conducted between 1 February 2008 and 31 January 2009 was 42. 41 consultations were open for at least 12 weeks, in line with the code of practice. One consultation exercise was given ministerial approval for a shorter period. The number of consultation responses ranged from 83 for the "Standing for Office: Time Off Entitlements" consultation to 12,000 responses on the "Eco towns: Living a greener future" consultation. Providing the cost of conducting the consultations could be done only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Temporary Employment

Justine Greening: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what her Department's policy is on the renewal of the contracts of *(a)* temporary and *(b)* agency staff. [264305]

Mr. Khan: The Department's policy on the renewal of the contracts of temporary staff complies with the Civil Service Commissioners' Recruitment Code. Appointments may subsequently be extended for a further period up to a maximum of 24 months for the overall term of the appointment.

Agency staff are only employed when there is a strong business case for doing so, in order to fill short-term vacancies or project specific roles, when it has not proved possible to fill the vacancy using available staff in the Department. Agency staff are not employed directly by the Department and do not have civil service contracts. Their employment is time-limited with the expectation that they remain in a position no longer than is necessary for the Department's business needs.

Departmental Training

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many training courses were taken by *(a)* civil servants and *(b)* Ministers in her Department in each of the last three years; and what the cost of such training was in each year. [265302]

Mr. Khan: Communities and Local Government does not centrally collate information on the training courses taken by civil servants and Ministers within the Department, nor the total cost of training for Ministers.

However, we do centrally hold the total cost of training spent on civil servants within the Department in the last three years and this is as follows.

	£
2005-06	3,564,177
2006-07	2,410,996
2007-08	2,113,042

The information on the training courses taken by civil servants and Ministers within the Department and the cost of training for Ministers could be provided only at a disproportionate cost.

Equity

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many equity loan completions there were in each region in the last 12 months. [265073]

Mr. Iain Wright: The number of equity loan completions by region from March 2008 to the end of February 2009 is as follows:

Region	*Number*
North East	40
Yorkshire and Humberside	296
North West	412
East of England	975
East Midlands	257
West Midlands	463
London	1,658
South East	1,992
South West	850
Total	6,943

Fire Services

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many people were rescued from their vehicles by the Fire and Rescue Service in *(a)* each fire authority area and *(b)* each region in each of the last three years. [266236]

Mr. Dismore: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many people were rescued from their vehicles by the Fire and Rescue Service in each *(a)* fire authority area and *(b)* region in each of the last three years. [266399]

Mr. Khan: The number of people rescued from their vehicles by fire and rescue services is not reported to the Department under the system in operation for data to 2008-09. This information could therefore be provided only at disproportionate cost.

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many people were rescued from flooding by the Fire and Rescue Service in each of the last five years. [266237]

Mr. Khan: The number of people rescued from flooding by fire and rescue services is not reported to the Department under the system in operation for data to 2008-09. This information could therefore only be provided at disproportionate cost.

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many incidents involving flooding were attended by the Fire and Rescue Service in each of the last five years. [266238]

Mr. Khan: Under the reporting system in operation for data to 2008-09, flooding incidents are recorded in a category of 'water removal and provision'. This also includes pumping of drinking water and of other water. Figures for the latest five years are shown in the table.

Water removal or provision incidents attended by fire and rescue services—England

	Number
2003-04	9,263
2004-05	11,685
2005-06	10,193
2006-07	11,347
2007-08	14,334

Source:
Annual returns to Communities and Local Government

Home Ownership Incentive Schemes

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the average monthly interest charged by OwnHome *(a)* funders and *(b)* providers has been since the scheme began. [265008]

Mr. Iain Wright: The information requested is not held centrally.

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the average income has been of a *(a)* first-time buyer, *(b)* social tenant and *(c)* key worker taking part in the (i) MyChoiceHomeBuy, (ii) HomeBuy Direct and (iii) OwnHome initiative. [265020]

Margaret Beckett: The average income of a *(a)* first time buyer, *(b)* social tenant and *(c)* key worker cannot be provided as these categories are not mutually exclusive. The average household income for individuals taking part in MyChoice HomeBuy is £31,155 and for Own Home is £31,601. We do not have any figures for HomeBuy Direct as no sales have yet been completed under HomeBuy Direct, which was launched in September and under which the first properties are just being released. This scheme is only available to first time buyers.

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many people have applied for assistance via the OwnHome scheme; how many applications have been granted; and what the average level of support has been. [265099]

Mr. Iain Wright: 5,541 applications were made for the Own Home scheme to the end of February 2009, of which 4,285 were approved by the provider for the purchaser to seek a property. Of the 687 applicants that purchased a property up to the end of February 2009, the average level of government funding was £28,772.

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many people have applied for assistance via the First Time Buyers initiative; how many applications have been granted; and what the average level of support has been. [265100]

Mr. Iain Wright: Since the start of the FTBI programme, 32,275 applications have been registered where the applicant has either specifically mentioned FTBI or included it as one of the HomeBuy products that they are considering. Therefore, the number is not exclusively comprised of FTBI applications.

Of the total number of applications, around 85 per cent. (27,659) have been approved as eligible for the HomeBuy products, including FTBI.

To date, around 1,900 homes have been purchased under the FTBI programme, with an average contribution of around £72,000 being made to each purchase.

HomeBuy Scheme

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) on what date she expects the Homebuy Direct scheme to launch; and how many expressions of interest have been received from potential purchasers; [265014]

(2) how much has been spent on the HomeBuy Direct scheme to date; [265016]

(3) how many people hav[illegible]lied for assistance via the HomeBuy Direct sch[illegible]any applications have been granted; and w[illegible] average level of support has been. [265098]

Margaret Beckett: The HomeBuy Direct scheme is already operating and the first buyers are expected to purchase properties over the next few weeks. No expenditure will be incurred until this happens.

The Homes and Communities Agency does not collect data on the number of applications for—or expressions of interest in—the scheme (data are collected at the point of completion). However, a number of participating developers are reporting high levels of pre-registrations for their HomeBuy Direct properties.

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much *(a)* the Government and *(b)* its partners have provided for the MyChoiceHomeBuy scheme; and how much will be provided in each of the next three years. [265015]

Margaret Beckett: The Government have provided £126.4 million for MyChoice HomeBuy in 2008-09. This was augmented with funding by the equity loan providers. Over the three years 2008-11, we are investing over £8 billion in affordable housing through the Homes and Communities Agency (HCA). We have not allocated specific funds for MyChoice HomeBuy for each of the next two years to allow full flexibility within the Affordable Housing Programme operated by the HCA. Future levels of funds beyond 2010-11 will be dependent upon the next spending review.

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many properties have been purchased via Social HomeBuy in each region in each of the last 12 quarters; what the monetary value of the transactions in each such period was; and if she will make a statement. [265265]

Margaret Beckett: The following table shows the number of properties purchased via Social HomeBuy in England, by region. Social HomeBuy was offered as a pilot project by a small number of local authorities and registered social landlords acting on a voluntary basis.

	2006-07	*2007-08*
North East	2	7
North West	4	34
Yorkshire and Humberside	12	6
East Midlands	3	2
West Midlands	0	6
Eastern	0	4
London	24	79
South East	2	20
South West	0	2
England	47	160

Figures showing the number of registered social landlord (RSL) Social HomeBuy sales are from Homes and Communities Agency Investment Management System (IMS). The HCA expenditure records also provide the monetary value of the Social HomeBuy sales, and they increased from £536,000 in 2006-07 to £1,912,000 in 2007-08.

The 2007-08 figures include an additional three local authority Social HomeBuy sales in London, from P1B returns to CLG from local authorities, which are not included in the monetary value.

These figures are only available annually, not quarterly.

Homes and Community Agency

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what interest was earned on deposits held by the Homes and Community Agency and its predecessors in each of the last five years. [265264]

Margaret Beckett: The Homes and Communities Agency (HCA) was established on 1 December 2008. As the HCA uses the Government Banking Service it means that no interest has been earned on any deposits made since that date.

The predecessor bodies of the HCA were the investment arm of the Housing Corporation, English Partnerships, and the Academy for Sustainable Communities, plus former programmes previously run by my Department. No interest was received on deposits by former CLG programmes, the Academy or the Housing Corporation. The following table shows the interest earned on deposits by English Partnerships over the last five years. This information has been taken from audited accounts.

Year ending 31 March each year	*Total interest earned by English Partnerships (£ million)*
2008	24.8
2007	20.3
2006	20.1
2005	17.6
2004	12.6
Total	95.4

The interest earned on deposits by English Partnerships between 1 April 2008 and 30 November 2008, prior to the creation of the HCA, was £16 million.

Housing: Construction

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what estimate she has made of the number of new homes which will be *(a)* started and *(b)* completed in (i) 2009 and (ii) 2010. [264995]

Mr. Iain Wright: Estimates have not been made by the Government of the number of new homes that will be started or completed in 2009 and 2010.

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many new homes were *(a)* started and *(b)* completed in each of the last 20 quarters. [265002]

Mr. Iain Wright: The following table shows the number of new build housing starts and completions in England for each of the last 20 quarters.

	New build starts	*New build completions*
2004		
Q1	42,460	31,950
Q2	47,930	39,360
Q3	45,370	39,910
Q4	40,850	42,850
2005		
Q1	40,480	33,770
Q2	49,210	40,920
Q3	44,700	37,930
Q4	42,740	46,830
2006		
Q1	40,180	37,720
Q2	47,040	43,250
Q3	39,860	37,670
Q4	42,120	42,220
2007		
Q1	43,270	44,540
Q2	42,760	43,260
Q3	42,660	38,680
Q4	37,660	40,050
2008		
Q1	32,880	37,880
Q2	34,050	37,610
Q3	22,220	31,500
Q4	15,950	35,700

Source:
New build starts and completions from P2 quarterly returns submitted by local authorities and the National House-Building Council to Communities and Local Government)

Housing: Low Incomes

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much the Homes and Communities Agency has spent on acquiring unsold stock for affordable housing in each of the last 12 months; and how many properties have been purchased. [265266]

Mr. Iain Wright: The plan to take advantage of market opportunities to bring private sector developer stock into the affordable housing sector by providing at least £200 million of funding through the Homes and Communities Agency's National Affordable Housing Programme (AHP) for the purchase of unsold homes from house builders was announced in May 2008.

The amount of grant allocated and number of homes to be provided, by month, is as follows:

	Grant (£ million)	*Homes*
2008		
June	20	750
July	0	0
August	0	0
September	50	1,410
October	22	650
November	37	1,225
December	35	935
2009		
January	33	770
February	39	1,000
Total	236	6,740

Housing: Prices

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the ratio of median house prices to median earnings was in each of the last 20 quarters. [264990]

Mr. Iain Wright: The ratio of median house prices to median earnings in England for the years 1997 to 2008 is presented in the following table.

Median house prices to median earnings, England

	Ratio
1997	3.54
1998	3.67
1999	3.86
2000	4.21
2001	4.47
2002	5.07
2003	5.83
2004	6.56
2005	6.81
2006	6.91
2007	7.26
2008	6.94

Source:
Land Registry and the Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings (ONS)

Housing: Standards

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many social sector homes were considered non-decent in each year since 2001; and what estimate has been made of the number so considered in 2008-09. [264982]

Mr. Iain Wright: The information requested is provided in the following table. It is not possible to make an accurate estimate at the moment for the number of non-decent homes among the whole social stock at end of the current financial year.

Social sector non-decent dwellings 2001-08

As at 1 April each year	*Non-decent dwellings (thousand)*	*Percentage of all social sector dwellings*
2001[1]	1,477	—
2002	1,600	37.6
2003	1,526	36.5
2004	1,367	33.1
2005	1,234	30.5
2006	1,063	26.1
2007	872	21.8
2008	714	18.0

[1] 2001 figures for Registered Social Landlords are not available and are therefore excluded.

Source:
Registered social landlord data from the Regulatory Statistical Return Part Q4 (long), Part Q8 (short). Local authority data from the Business Plan Statistical Appendix.

Local Government: Disclosure of Information

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what guidance her Department has issued on whistleblowing policy in relation to individuals working in child protection in local authorities; and if she will make a statement. [247817]

Beverley Hughes: I have been asked to reply.

The statutory guidance 'Working Together to Safeguard Children', updated in 2006, makes clear in section 2.8 that all organisations that provide services for, or work with, children, must have appropriate whistle-blowing procedures, and a culture that enables issues about safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children to be addressed.

Ofsted is currently establishing a whistleblower's hotline for social workers and other front-line staff to alert Ofsted to any serious concerns about practice that fails to ensure the safety and welfare of children. It expects this to be operational from April 2009. At present it is possible for staff with concerns to raise these anonymously by contacting Ofsted's National Business Unit, the contacts for which can be found on the Ofsted website.

Non-Domestic Rates: Empty Property

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what revenues have been raised to date from the levy applied to empty properties in England in the last 12 months. [265329]

John Healey: I refer the hon. Member to the answers given by the Exchequer Secretary to the Treasury to the hon. Member for Eddisbury (Mr. O'Brien) on 10 December 2008, *Official Report*, column 195W.

Planning Permission

Julia Goldsworthy: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what estimate has been made of the number of planning applications the Infrastructure Planning Commission is likely to determine in each year of its operation. [266250]

Mr. Iain Wright: The original impact assessment estimated that around 45 major projects a year would be considered by the IPC, but made clear that this figure would vary from year to year because supply would depend on market conditions. In January this year we published an Annex to the Planning Bill Impact Assessment, which concluded that despite various changes, we still believe that this is a fair reflection of the Infrastructure Planning Commission's anticipated workload.

Sustainable Development

Andrew George: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what discussions her Department has had on the use of powers under the Sustainable Communities Act 2007 with those local authorities planning to use such powers. [265379]

John Healey: On 14 October 2008, the Secretary of State invited local authorities in England to prepare proposals they consider, with their local communities, would improve the economic, social or environmental well-being of their area and to submit these to the Local Government Association (LGA). The LGA, which has been appointed as the "selector" under the terms of the Act, will short-list proposals and work in co-operation with the Government to consider the proposals. Discussions between local authorities and the Secretary of State are not a formal part of the process.

Temporary Accommodation

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many *(a)* households and *(b)* households with children were living in temporary accommodation in each of the last 20 quarters. [264987]

Mr. Iain Wright: Information about English local housing authorities' actions under the homelessness legislation (part 7 of the Housing Act 1996) is collected quarterly at local authority level.

Data collected include the number of households accepted by local housing authorities as eligible for assistance, unintentionally homeless and in priority need, and therefore owed a main homelessness duty (to secure that suitable accommodation is available). If a settled home is not immediately available, the authority must secure temporary accommodation until a settled home becomes so.

Information on the numbers of households housed in temporary accommodation is reported quarterly by local authorities as at the last day of each quarter. The figure includes: those households which have been accepted as owed the main homelessness duty; those for which inquiries are pending; those being accommodated for a limited period because they have been found intentionally homeless and in priority need; those being accommodated pending possible referral to another authority, and those being accommodated pending the outcome of a local authority review or county court appeal.

The number of households in temporary accommodation at the end of each of the past 20 quarters, and the number which include dependent children (or expected children), is published in Table 6 of the Statistical Release on Statutory Homelessness, and available on the web and in the Library:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/documents/statistics/xls/1173159.xls

Tenant Services Authority

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if she will place in the Library a copy of her Department's *(a)* management statement and *(b)* financial memorandum in respect of the (i) Tenants Service Authority and (ii) Homes and Communities Agency. [265257]

Margaret Beckett: The TSA Framework Document has recently been agreed by Whitehall and HM Treasury and the TSA is now preparing this for publication.

The Department is working with the HCA and other Government Departments, towards finalising corporate documentation that will constitute the Management Statement and Financial Memorandum for the HCA. This documentation is currently in draft and once finalised will be laid before Parliament at the earliest opportunity.

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government on what date recruitment for the *(a)* Tenant Services Authority and *(b)* Homes and Communities Agency commenced; and by what date she expects each process to have been completed. [265299]

Margaret Beckett: Recruitment for TSA's executive team began week commencing 27 July 2008, these posts were filled between January and March 2009. Recruitment for the assistant directors began on 15 February and will be completed by July 2009 depending on notice periods. The TSA is currently restructuring staff transferred on 1 December from the Housing Corporation. This is due to be substantially completed by July 2009.

The first recruited post for the Homes and Communities Agency was the position of chief executive designate. This was advertised in July 2007 and the position was filled in March 2008. On 1 December the majority of the HCA's staff transferred from the predecessor bodies. The HCA are currently reviewing the organisation's corporate and regional structures. Until that process is finished it is not possible to specify when the recruitment process will be complete.

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government when she expects the restructuring processes involving *(a)* the Tenant Services Authority and *(b)* the Homes and Communities Agency to have been completed. [265298]

Margaret Beckett: The TSA has established an organisational structure to reflect the fundamental objectives that were established for it in the Housing and Regeneration Act 2008.

It has also launched a wide consultation with tenants, landlords and other stakeholders about the design of the new regulatory framework that it will introduce under the same Act. This framework will secure better standards of housing provision for tenants of affordable housing and a greater accountability of landlords to their tenants. It will also continue to provide essential regulation of the financial viability of housing associations.

To support this new regulatory framework, the TSA has begun its restructure with the appointment of its senior management team and it will be complete by autumn 2009 ahead of the introduction of that new regulatory framework.

The HCA are implementing a Change Plan to move the organisation away from an amalgamation of its predecessor bodies to a single, integrated organisation able to successfully deliver the Single Conversation. This is essential to build more effective structures that will deliver the demanding targets Government have set for housing and regeneration. Implementation will be an ongoing process, subject to review.

HEALTH

Acute Trusts: Financial Status

9. **Andrew George:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what progress has been made towards ensuring that financially challenged acute trusts achieve recurring balance. [265619]

Mr. Bradshaw: "Financially challenged" was a term introduced in 2007 for those 17 remaining national health service hospitals that were not in a position to deal with their historic debts.

Since then, 10 of them, including the Royal Cornwall, have agreed solutions and are no longer designated as financially challenged.

All but one of the remaining seven financially challenged trusts are in London and work is well under way to address their historic debt, but over a slightly longer timescale.

Hospital-Acquired Infections

10. **Bob Spink:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent assessment he has made of progress in reducing the level of hospital-acquired infections. [265620]

Alan Johnson: We have exceeded our target to halve methicillin-resistant *Staphylococcus aureus* (MRSA) blood stream infections, with a 65 per cent. reduction on the 2003-04 baseline.

Since the first quarter in which the current data format was used, April to June 2007, we have seen a 47 per cent. reduction in the number of cases of *Clostridium difficile* when compared to the number of cases in July to September 2008, the latest quarter for which data are available.

NHS Executives

11. **Rob Marris:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many *(a)* chief executives and *(b)* board members of NHS trusts have been dismissed since 1997. [265621]

Alan Johnson: Since 2001 seven non-executive board members of national health service trusts have been removed from office. The Department does not hold information prior to 2001 when the Appointments Commission assumed responsibility.

Chief executives and other executive directors are employees of their trusts and dismissal is a matter for the trust, acting in accordance with individual employment contracts and general employment law.

Information regarding dismissals is not collected centrally.

Bilateral Cochlear Implant

12. **Mr. Heppell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what his plans are for the future provision of simultaneous bilateral cochlear implant to those who require it. [265622]

Dawn Primarolo: The National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE) issued guidance on 28 January 2009, recommending simultaneous bilateral cochlear as an option for children or adults who are blind or have other disabilities and who are not receiving adequate benefit from acoustic hearing aids.

Primary care trusts are required to make funding available within three months of final NICE guidance to enable clinicians to follow positive technology appraisal recommendations.

Mental Health Services

13. **John Robertson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what additional support he plans to provide to assist mental health care staff to identify mentally ill patients who present a serious threat to themselves and others. [265623]

Phil Hope: Judgments about which mentally ill patients present a serious threat to themselves and others are a core clinical skill for frontline mental health clinicians. To support them, last year's review of the Care Programme Approach for mental health service users included a focus on risk and safety management and the Department commissioned a new national training package for staff. In 2007 we also published best practice guidance on managing risk to self and others.

Coeliac Disease

14. **Gordon Banks:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many requests for serological testing for coeliac disease have been received by pathology services in England in the last three years. [265624]

Ann Keen: This information is not collected centrally.

Autism

15. **Mr. David Anderson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps his Department is taking to improve its services to people with autism. [265625]

Phil Hope: In April, we will publish good practice guidance on commissioning for the NHS and local authorities and launch consultation on a new national strategy for autism with the aim of publishing the final strategy by December. We will ensure the needs of children with autism are addressed in Children and Young People's Plans.

Financially Disadvantaged: Health

16. **Tony Lloyd:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment he has made of the factors contributing to poor health outcomes for those in the bottom decile of income. [265626]

Dawn Primarolo: Research shows that factors associated with poor health in low-income groups include unemployment, overcrowding, lack of a car, low educational attainment, poor housing and behavioural risk factors, and area deprivation amongst others. I have not made specific analysis of the bottom income decile.

Stroke

17. **Charlotte Atkins:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps he has taken to improve public awareness of the symptoms of stroke. [265627]

Ann Keen: Treatment of stroke is time critical. In February we began a very successful public awareness campaign informing people about stroke symptoms using FAST—Face Arm Speech Time to call 999, so that they can become stroke savers. The advert has appeared across television, radio, the press and on-line. Recognising symptoms earlier, means people get treatment faster and their outcomes are better.

Social Enterprise

18. **Andrew Gwynne:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent steps his Department has taken to promote social enterprise in the health and social care sector. [265628]

Phil Hope: My Department is actively promoting social enterprise in health and social care through investment from the £100 million Social Enterprise Investment Fund. The NHS next stage review also promotes social enterprise through its introduction of PCT staffs "right to request" to set up social enterprises to deliver services.

Individual Budgets

19. **Mr. Harper:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent discussions he has had with the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions on the operation of individual budgets. [265629]

Phil Hope: Over the past year I, and my colleagues, have had several discussions with the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, and his Junior Ministers, about the operation of individual Budgets.

First Aid Training

20. **Bob Russell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will have discussions with the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families on the inclusion of first aid training in the national curriculum. [265630]

Ann Keen: Children and young people can learn about basic and emergency first aid through Personal, Social, Health and Economic (PSHE) education. While PSHE education is currently non-statutory, in October 2008 the Department for Children, Schools and Families announced its intention to make it statutory, and launched an independent review. Proposals for the statutory implementation of PSHE education will be the subject of a full public consultation. My colleagues at DCSF, who lead on this issue, are therefore making progress towards a decision.

Primary Care: Southwark

21. **Simon Hughes:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what plans he has for the future provision of primary care in Southwark; and if he will make a statement. [265631]

Mr. Bradshaw: The local national health service is responsible for providing primary care services to meet the complex health needs of the local population. We are informed that Southwark primary care trust is currently consulting on a five to 10 year strategy for primary and community care, to include the development of four health and social care centres.

NHS Dentists

22. **Mr. Carswell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will take steps to ensure wider access to NHS dental services in Harwich. [265634]

Ann Keen: We have been advised by the East of England strategic health authority that North East Essex primary care trust is committed to providing additional dental access to its patients in North East Essex and in particular Harwich and Dovercourt.

Negotiations have now taken place to increase additional dental activity and will be finalised for the new financial year. In addition, NHS North East Essex is currently going through an application process to increase dental access. Current practices will be applying to provide additional activity in the Harwich and Dovercourt areas.

Health Care Partnerships

23. **Mr. Sheerman:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps his Department is taking to ensure that strategic health authorities, primary care trusts and acute trusts work co-operatively with other local and regional non-health partners. [265635]

Mr. Bradshaw: The Department has introduced the World Class Commissioning programme for primary care trusts (PCTs), providing a clear framework for developing local partnership working.

A new statutory Duty of Partnership requires PCTs and national health service trusts to participate in Local Strategic Partnerships and the development of local area agreements. In addition, the Department is working to align the performance frameworks for local authorities and the NHS.

Alcoholic Drinks: Misuse

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many people over the age of 50 years have been diagnosed with alcoholism in *(a)* Hemel Hempstead and *(b)* Hertfordshire in each of the last five years. [265797]

Dawn Primarolo: The information requested is not held centrally.

Antenatal Care: Expenditure

Mr. Lidington: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much the Government has spent on antenatal care in each of the last 10 years. [265424]

Ann Keen: Information is not available in the format requested. I also refer the hon. member to the answer I gave the hon. Member for South Cambridgeshire (Mr. Lansley) on 17 March 2009, *Official Report*, column 1027W.

Antidepressants

Jim Dobbin: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 10 March 2009, *Official Report*, column 368W, on antidepressants, what amendments were made in December 2008 to strengthen the requirements upon marketing authorisation holders to report on drug safety information emerging from clinical trials *(a)* in and *(b)* outside the UK. [264951]

Dawn Primarolo: The Medicines for Human Use (Marketing Authorisation Etc.) Amendment Regulations 2008 explicitly state that reporting requirements for drug safety information apply to information arising from use of the product outside the terms of the marketing authorisation, including use in clinical trials as defined in Article 2(a) of the clinical trials directive. There is no geographical limitation on this requirement. The regulations also state that the reporting requirements apply to information arising from the use of the product in a country which is not a European economic area state. This information must be provided to the licensing authority "as soon as is reasonably practicable".

Baby Care Units: Nurses

Mr. Lidington: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) how many neonatal vacancies there were in *(a)* the National Health Service and *(b)* each strategic health authority area in England on the latest date for which figures are available; [265422]

(2) how many specialist neonatal nurses are employed in *(a)* the National Health Service and *(b)* each strategic health authority area in England; [265425]

(3) how many full-time equivalent neonatal nurses are employed by *(a)* the National Health Service and *(b)* each strategic health authority area in England. [265426]

Ann Keen: This information is not collected centrally.

The Department has established the National Neonatal Taskforce, chaired by Sir Bruce Keogh, which has four sub-groups, one of which covers neonatal workforce. The workforce subgroup has developed a survey of neonatal workforce, which it has sent to the national health service. The survey results are currently being analysed and the taskforce is due to report in June 2009.

Childbirth

Anne Milton: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the Answer of 24 February 2009, *Official Report*, column 634W, on childbirth, what steps he is taking to improve the accuracy in the recording of *(a)* gestational age and *(b)* birth weight. [263579]

Ann Keen: A number of measures are in hand which should improve the accuracy of these data.

One of the aims of Public Service Agreement 19: "Ensure Better Care for All" (2007) is to:

> "increase the percentage of women who have seen a midwife or a maternity health care professional for a health and social care assessment of needs, risks and choices by 12 weeks of completed pregnancy".

This assessment will include a dating scan that will be used to calculate the gestational age of the foetus during pregnancy and at birth. As more women benefit from these assessments the accuracy of recorded information on gestational age should improve and together with this the plausibility of weight for age data.

A maternity data quality dashboard was published by the NHS Information Centre for health and social care (IC) in February 2009 for use by national health service trusts and commissioners, enabling them better to monitor progress using the data they have submitted. The dashboard specifically identifies gestation length and birth weight as data fields. Increased local scrutiny of these data should also encourage improvements in data quality.

In addition, the NHS IC is taking steps to improve the accuracy of maternity data in hospital episode statistics (HES). This should have a positive effect on other information in this area such as that used by the Office for National Statistics to link to registration data.

The IC now contacts NHS trusts directly when they submit data for HES which contains a high proportion of blank or unknown values in key maternity fields. The IC encourages trusts to investigate why these fields are not being populated and to resubmit data with correct values. The IC has also begun introducing improvements to the annual NHS Maternity Services publication, which includes data on gestational age and birth weight, while ensuring that data problems are transparent so that there is an incentive to improve data quality.

Departmental Manpower

Justine Greening: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many *(a)* permanent, *(b)* agency and *(c)* temporary staff on contracts of (i) up to three months, (ii) between three and six months, (iii) between six and 12 months and (iv) 12 months or more there are in each directorate of his Department. [264284]

Mr. Bradshaw: The following table shows the numbers of permanent, temporary and agency staff in the Department as of the end of December 2008.

					Fixed term appointment				
Directorates	*Employees*	*Loan in*	*Secondees in*	*Agency staff*	*<3 months*	*3-6 months*	*6-12 months*	*>12 months*	*Grand total*
Chief medical officer	12.0	—	1.0	—	—	—	—	—	13.0
Chief nursing officer	73.5	—	2.0	2.0	—	—	1.0	4.7	83.2
Commercial	6.0	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	6.0
Commissioning and system management	148.3	1.0	3.0	4.0	—	—	1.0	1.0	158.3
Communications	103.1	2.0	—	7.0	—	—	1.0	2.0	124.1
Equality and human rights	10.9		1.0	—	—	—	1.0	—	12.9
Finance and operations	580.5	5.0	4.0	15.3	1.0	3.0	—	6.5	619.8
Health improvement and protection	211.7	8.0	8.0	6.0	—	—	2.0	3.0	238.7

Directorates	*Employees*	*Loan in*	*Secondees in*	*Agency staff*	*Fixed term appointment: <3 months*	*3-6 months*	*6-12 months*	*>12 months*	*Grand total*
Health inequalities unit	2.0	—	—	1.0	—	—	—	—	3.0
NHS chief executive officer	7.0	—	5.0	1.0	—	—	1.0	—	14.0
NHS finance, performance and operations	179.0	1.0	10.0	5.0	2.0	2.0	—	1.0	200.0
NHS medical director	183.4	—	6.8	3.0	—	—	—	1.0	194.2
Policy and strategy	136.9	1.0	2.0	8.6	—	1.0	2.0	3.0	155.5
Regional Public Health Groups	104.6	—	23.5	6.0	—	1.0	1.0	1.0	140.1
Research and development	48.1	0.5	3.0	1.0	—	—	—	—	52.6
Social care, local government and care partnerships	143.1	3.0	2.0	1.0	—	1.0	1.0	1.0	152.1
Work force	158.8	—	—	5.0	—	1.0	—	—	164.8
Miscellaneous	11.2	1.0	35.0	32.2	—	—	1.0	—	98.2
Grand total	2,075.1	23.3	166.3	118.1	3.0	9.0	12.0	24.2	2,431.7

Notes:
1. Data included are as at 31 December 2008.
2. Figures include staff on secondment or loan into the Department, and exclude staff on secondment or loan out of the Department.

Departmental Public Expenditure

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) pursuant to the announcement of 3 February 2009 on safeguarding Government infrastructure investment, whether any of his Department's *(a)* under spends on previous projects and *(b)* unallocated funds will be used to provide funding for the private finance initiative projects referred to; [265558]

(2) with reference to the announcement of 3 February 2009 on safeguarding Government infrastructure investment, which of his Department's projects are included within the 110 projects referred to; and how much the Government plan to lend to each of those projects in each financial year. [265559]

Mr. Bradshaw: The Government announced on 3 March that they will lend to private finance initiative (PFI) schemes that cannot raise sufficient debt finance on acceptable terms. This lending facility will be run by the Treasury. All projects in procurement, meaning the 110 PFI schemes which have issued a notice to go out to tender in the Official Journal of the European Union (OJEU) but have not yet reached financial close, will be eligible for this finance from the Government. The £475 million North Bristol NHS trust Southmead hospital redevelopment is one of these schemes.

The North Bristol scheme is not at the stage where the private sector counterpart needs to raise finance. The Department will work with the trust and its advisers and the preferred bidder (when confirmed) and its advisers to monitor closely the general banking situation to see if it is necessary to approach the Treasury lending facility.

Funding for this lending facility will be provided from across Government, including initially from unallocated funds and Departmental under spends on previous projects. The Treasury Budget Report published in April this year will contain information on the year end position for the 2008-09 Department capital budget. The Department's capital plans for 2009-10 and 2010-11 are still being finalised.

Departmental Publications

Mr. Leigh: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment he has made of the propositions contained in Religion or belief: a practical guide for the NHS; and if he will make a statement. [265633]

Phil Hope: In January 2009, the Department published "Religion or Belief: A Practical Guide for the NHS" as part of a suite of guides, covering different aspects of equality, to help national health service organisations publish better equality schemes, review, and if needs be, improve their equality performance for patients and staff. For the most part, the contents of all the guides are neither mandatory nor new. If a NHS organisation needs to adjust its practice, it should do so with due regard to its statutory obligations and current performance levels, and its own resources.

Departmental Recruitment

Justine Greening: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 12 February 2009, *Official Report*, columns 2173-4W, on departmental recruitment, what estimate he has made of the annual salary cost of the new *(a)* permanent, *(b)* temporary and *(c)* agency staff recruited by his Department in each year since 2005-06. [264281]

Mr. Bradshaw: To make an estimate of the costs of salaries for those staff recruited in each of the years since 2005-06 would incur disproportionate costs to establish.

Information about the costs of staff salaries, more generally, is published in departmental annual reports. These can be found on the Department's website at:

www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Publications/AnnualReports/index.htm#jumpTo1

Departmental Temporary Employment

Justine Greening: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what his Department's policy is on the renewal of the contracts of *(a)* temporary and *(b)* agency staff. [264283]

Mr. Bradshaw: The recruitment of temporary staff is governed by the Civil Service Commissioners Recruitment Code, which can be downloaded at:

www.civilservicecommissioners.org/Reference_Documents/Recruitment_Code_Reference/

The Department uses contracted agency staff to meet short-term business needs.

Departmental policy is to renew only those contracts where there is a strong continuing business need. This need is determined through a business case approval process.

Departmental Travel

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the cost to his Department was of petrol for official travel by private car in each year since 1997; and if he will make a statement. [263485]

Mr. Bradshaw: There is no statutory requirement to report on petrol costs as a separate item in the annual accounts. Also, it is not possible to answer this question on the basis that we cannot disaggregate and identify how much was spent on mileage claims either as the data are only recorded as part of the total spend for travel and subsistence.

However, in July the Department introduced a new finance system, which will allow for a more detailed breakdown of the data collected, we can therefore provide details of the amount spent on mileage claims since July 2008.

The rates reimbursed by the Department are in line with other Government Departments and have HM Revenue and Customs approval. The Department reimburses staff at a rate of 40p per mile for the first 4,000 miles and 25p a mile thereafter for use of a private motor vehicle on official business. The rate reimbursed when a motorcycle is used for official business is 24p per mile.

It should be noted that these rates relate to both petrol and diesel and includes elements to cover for depreciation etc. It is not intended that the rate should solely cover fuel costs.

Since 1 July 2008, the Department has reimbursed staff a total of £111,030.00 in mileage claims.

Diabetes: Syringes

Julia Goldsworthy: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what guidance his Department provides to local authorities on charging for the disposal of used needles from diabetics. [266249]

Ann Keen: The Department's guidance document "Health Technical Memorandum 07-01: Safe management of healthcare waste" contains information relating to local authorities' responsibilities for the disposal of clinical waste, which includes used needles from diabetics. A copy of the document has already been placed in the Library. Paragraph 2.8 of the document states:

> "Local authorities have specific duties in relation to healthcare waste. Section 45 of the Environmental Protection Act (in Northern Ireland, Article 20 of the Waste and Contaminated Land Order) states that it is the duty of each waste collection authority to arrange for the collection of household waste in its area. It also states that the authority may make a reasonable charge for the collection of certain types of household waste to reflect the higher disposal costs and separate collection arrangements that have to be made. Types of household waste for which a charge for collection can be made are listed in Schedule 2 of the Controlled Waste Regulations. These include clinical waste from a domestic property."

Diabetes: Wiltshire

Mr. Gray: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many cases of *(a)* type 1 and *(b)* type 2 diabetes were diagnosed in each age group in the NHS Wiltshire area in each of the last five years. [264865]

Ann Keen: This information is not available in the format requested. Such information as is available is in the following table.

The Quality and Outcomes Framework (QOF) contains disease registers for adult diabetics (ages 17 and over). These registers are available from 2004-05 and show four years of data. The registers do not distinguish between type 1 and type 2 diabetes, and do not give the age group of the patient.

Primary care trust (PCT)	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*
Kennet and North Wiltshire PCT	5,899	6,324	n/a	n/a
South Wiltshire PCT	3,440	3,663	n/a	n/a
West Wiltshire PCT	4,045	4,233	n/a	n/a
Wiltshire PCT	13,384	14,220	14,980	15,944

Note:
Wiltshire PCT was formed in October 2006 by the merger of West Wiltshire PCT, South Wiltshire PCT and Kennet and North Wiltshire PCT. Figures for 2004-05 and 2005-06 are the sum of the figures for these three PCTs. Figures for 2006-07 and 2007-08 are for Wiltshire PCT.

Diseases

Mr. Burstow: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many *(a)* male and *(b)* female patients were on clinical disease registers in (i) each primary care trust in London and (ii) each strategic health authority area in each of the last three years; what proportion of the total number of patients on practice lists in each area such patients represented in each year; and if he will make a statement. [255836]

Mr. Bradshaw: A copy of the information requested on clinical disease registers has been placed in the Library.

Health Education: Finance

Mr. Wallace: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what funding his Department is providing to *(a)* primary care trusts and *(b)* hospital trusts to promote healthy eating and exercise in 2008-09. [265886]

Dawn Primarolo: Funding to the national health service is provided mainly directly to primary care trusts (PCTs) (£74 billion in 2008-09). PCTs then commission services to meet the health needs of their populations, including from primary care providers and hospital trusts. PCT allocations are not broken down into funding for individual policy streams such as the promotion of healthy eating and exercise. Rather, the Department is clear about outcomes it wants the NHS to deliver in the Operating Framework, including commitments on childhood obesity. It is for the NHS to decide locally how best to deliver those commitments including how much resource to invest.

Hearing Impaired: Children

Sandra Gidley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many children of each age under 17 years old have become deaf in each of the last 10 years. [264910]

Phil Hope: The number and ages of deaf children in England is not collected centrally. Instead, data are collected on the number of children who are registered as deaf or hard of hearing. Inclusion on the register is voluntary and therefore, does not provide a complete picture of the number of children in England who are deaf or hard of hearing.

As at 31 March 2007, 3,400 people aged 0-17 years were registered as deaf in England (4,100 were registered as hard of hearing).

Registers of Deaf and Hard of Hearing People (SSDA910) are collected by the NHS Information Centre every three years, and was last collected in 2006-07. This collects the number of people registered as deaf or hard of hearing with councils with social services responsibilities (CSSR).

Hospitals: Admissions

Sir John Stanley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will list the documents and parliamentary statements in which the Government's policy on the categories of patients who may be admitted to NHS community hospitals in England is set out. [263662]

Mr. Bradshaw: We do not categorise patients in this way. Community hospitals are places that can offer a broad range of diagnostic and treatment services where these can be provided safely and appropriately away from specialist centres. Admissions will depend on the mix of services available and the clinical needs of individual patients.

Hospitals: Construction

Sir John Stanley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will list the community hospital capital projects which have been approved to date under the £750 million of capital expenditure for community hospitals over five years announced by his predecessor the right hon. Member for Leicester West, stating in each case *(a)* the name of the community hospital and its location, *(b)* a brief description of the capital works, *(c)* the capital cost approved and *(d)* the date of approval. [263663]

Mr. Bradshaw: The following table indicates name and location of community hospital, a description of the capital works, the capital contribution approved by the Department, and the date the scheme was approved.

Name of community hospital and location	*Description of capital works*	*Capital contribution approved by the Department (£ million)*	*Approval date*
Washington primary care centre, Sunderland	New build	8.95	December 2006
Gosport War Memorial hospital, Portsmouth	Redevelopment	6.122	December 2006
Yate Community health centre, South Gloucestershire	Redevelopment	5.0	December 2006
Minehead Healthy Living Park, Somerset	Redevelopment	24.5	December 2006
Hornsey community hospital, Haringey	New hospital	1.658	April 2007
South Bristol community hospital, Bristol	New hospital	1.0	April 2007
Barking hospital, Essex	Refurbishment	5.0	April 2007
Teddington health and social care centre, London	New	3.98	April 2007
Calderdale and Kirklees community services, Yorkshire and Humber	New and refurbishment	13.08	April 2007
Ashfield community hospital, Nottingham	New	1.149	April 2007
Felixstowe general hospital, Suffolk	Redevelopment	1.76	April 2007
Hastings primary health care centre, Sussex	New	12.29	April 2007
Royal South Hants hospital, Southampton	Redevelopment	6.079	April 2007
Rotherham primary care centre, Rotherham	New and refurbishment	0.96	April 2007
Hartlepool primary care facility, Teeside	New build	3.0	December 2007
St. Charles hospital, London	Redevelopment	10.5	December 2007
Keynsham Health Park, Bath and North East Somerset	New build	5.8	December 2007
Berkeley Vale, Gloucestershire	Redevelopment	6.44	December 2007
Selby health and community campus, North Yorkshire and York	Redevelopment	13.03	December 2007
North Cotswolds, Gloucestershire	New build	11.03	December 2007
St. Mary's community hospital, Portsmouth	Redevelopment	17.1	December 2007
Malvern community hospital, Worcestershire	Refurbishment	19.22	December 2007
East Riding community hospital (Beverley, Hornsea and Driffield), Yorkshire	New and refurbishment	17.0	December 2007
Finchley Memorial hospital, Barnet	Redevelopment	9.9	June 2008
Eltham and Mottingham hospital, Greenwich	New build	4.58	June 2008
Health and social care centre at Kings Avenue, Ashford, Kent	New build	9.0	June 2008

Name of community hospital and location	*Description of capital works*	*Capital contribution approved by the Department (£ million)*	*Approval date*
Thame, Buckinghamshire	Redevelopment	4.0	June 2008
St. Thomas', Stockport	New build	20.072	June 2008

Hospitals: Food

Paul Holmes: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate he has made of the average expenditure by the NHS on meals per hospital patient per day in the latest period for which figures are available. [265893]

Ann Keen: Information provided to the Department shows that for the period 2007-08, the average cost of feeding one patient per day was £6.97.

This cost relates to the average daily cost for the provision of all meals and beverages fed to one patient per day, across all national health service trusts in England. The cost should include all pay and non-pay costs, including provisions, ward issues, disposables, equipment and its maintenance.

The information has been supplied by the national health service and has not been amended centrally. The accuracy and completeness of the information is the responsibility of the provider organisation.

Hospitals: Infectious Diseases

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many patients were treated for healthcare-acquired infections in *(a)* the Eastern area and *(b)* England in each of the last five years. [264947]

Ann Keen: The information requested is not collected centrally. The best available data are from the mandatory surveillance system, which covers Methicillin-resistant *Staphylococcus aureus* (MRSA) bloodstream infections, *Clostridium difficile* (*C.difficile*) infections, Glycopeptide resistant enterococci infections, and orthopaedic surgical site infections operated for the Department by the Health Protection Agency (HPA).

Data for England and the East of England respectively are provided in the following tables. Regional data are not available for surgical site infections.

Since April 2001, all acute national health service trusts in England have been obliged to report all cases of bloodstream infections caused by MRSA.

These data comprise all specimens processed by NHS acute trust laboratories, not just those from in-patients and include infections acquired in hospital and elsewhere. These data are only available by financial year.

Number of cases of bloodstream infections caused by MRSA

April to March each year	*England*	*East of England*
2003-04	7,700	684
2004-05	7,233	725
2005-06	7,096	678
2006-07	6,383	529
2007-08	4,448	333

All acute NHS trusts in England are obliged to report all cases of *C. difficile* infection in people aged 65 years and over since January 2004.

These data comprise all specimens processed by NHS acute trust laboratories, not just those from in-patients and include infections acquired in hospital and elsewhere.

Number of cases of C. difficile infection in people aged 65 years and over

Calendar year	*England*	*East of England*
2004	44,563	5,418
2005	51,829	5,953
2006	55,635	6,420
2007	50,461	5,807

In April 2007, mandatory surveillance was extended to include all patients aged two years and over, but these data are not included in the table.

Since October 2003, all acute NHS trusts in England are obliged to report all cases of blood stream infections caused by glycopeptide resistant enterococci.

These data comprise all specimens processed by NHS acute trust laboratories, not just those from in-patients and include infections acquired in hospital and elsewhere. These data are available from October to September; they are not available by calendar year.

Number of cases of blood stream infections caused by glycopeptide resistant enterococci

October to September each year	*England*	*East of England*
2003-04	628	74
2004-05	757	92
2005-06	903	122
2006-07	910	111

Since April 2004, the following data have been collected from the mandatory surveillance of surgical site infections (SSIs) in orthopaedic categories in English NHS hospitals. Hospitals carrying out orthopaedic surgery have to participate in the surveillance of at least one category for at least one quarter of the year. All of the SSIs reported are identified during the in-patient period.

	2004-05		*2005-06*		*2006-07*		*2007-08*	
Surgical category	*Number of operations*	*Number of SSIs*	*Number of operations*	*Number of SSIs*	*Number of operations*	*Number of SSIs*	*Number of operations*	*Number of SSIs*
Hip prosthesis	16,765	211	21,046	190	25,397	181	28,510	145
Knee prosthesis	15,848	103	22,843	128	25,167	96	30,605	87
Open reduction of long bone fracture	3,277	66	2,774	44	3,678	60	3,752	35
Hip hemiarthroplasty	5,396	219	6,328	230	6,709	211	6,333	151

Injuries: Offensive Weapons

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many people have been admitted to hospital with knife wounds in each year since 1997. [265412]

Dawn Primarolo: Information has been provided on the number of finished admission episodes for two clinical codes. Code x99 covers assault by a sharp object, and code w26 covers accidental contact knife, sword or dagger. Data for both these clinical codes have been provided for the years 1996-97 to 2007-08.

The data provided include all activity in national health service hospitals England and activity performed in the independent sector in England commissioned by the English NHS.

Reference should be made to the footnotes and clinical codes when interpreting the data.

Total number of admissions to hospital for assault by a sharp object (X99) and contact with knife, sword or dagger (W26), for years 1996-97 to 2007-08

	Contact with knife, sword or dagger	Assault by sharp object
1996-97	3,401	3,942
1997-98	3,730	3,875
199[illegible]-99	4,002	3,667
1999-2000	4,462	4,125
2000-01	4,607	4,249
2001-02	4,667	4,642
2002-03	4,805	4,275
2003-04	4,921	4,774
2004-05	4,939	5,072
2005-06	5,321	5,496
2006-07	5,284	5,720
2007-08	5,031	5,239

Notes:

1. Assignment of episodes to years: Years are assigned by the end of the first period of care in a patient's hospital stay.

2. Finished admission episodes: A finished admission episode is the first period of in-patient care under one consultant within one health care provider. Admissions do not represent the number of in-patients, as a person may have more than one admission within the year.

3. Cause code—blunt object, sharp object and gunshot wounds: The cause code is a supplementary code that indicates the nature of any external cause of injury, poisoning or other adverse effects. HES has used the following ICD-10 external cause codes when assault by sharp object and contact with knife, sword or dagger.

X99—Assault by sharp object

W26—Contact with knife, sword or dagger

4. Data quality: hospital episode statistics (HES) are compiled from data sent by over 300 NHS trusts and primary care trusts in England. The NHS Information Centre for health and social care liaises closely with these organisations to encourage submission of complete and valid data and seeks to minimise inaccuracies and the effect of missing and invalid data via HES processes. While this brings about improvement over time, some shortcomings remain.

5. Assessing growth through time: HES figures are available from 1989-90 onwards. During the years that these records have been collected by the NHS there have been ongoing improvements in quality and coverage. These improvements in information submitted by the NHS have been particularly marked in the earlier years and need to be borne in mind when analysing time series. Some of the increase in figures for later years (particularly 2006-07 onwards) may be due to the improvement in the coverage of independent sector activity. Changes in NHS practice also need to be borne in mind when analysing time series. For example, a number of procedures may now be undertaken in outpatient settings and may no longer be accounted for in the HES data. This may account for any reductions in activity over time.

6. Ungrossed data: Figures have not been adjusted for shortfalls in data (i.e. the data are ungrossed).

Source:

Hospital episode statistics (HES), The NHS Information Centre for health and social care

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many people in each *(a)* strategic health authority and *(b)* healthcare provider area had diagnosis codes of (i) W32, (ii) W33, (iii) W34, (iv) W50, (v) X93, (vi) X94, (vii) X95 and (viii) X99 or Y00 in each of the last six years. [265486]

Dawn Primarolo: Information has been provided on the number of finished admission episodes for all requested codes for strategic health authority (SHA) of residence and health care providers. The codes have been grouped together because it is not possible to provide individual codes for health care providers because the number involved are so small, they would need to be suppressed in order to preserve anonymity. In addition, the numbers for individual codes have been provided at SHA level. Small numbers have been suppressed and replaced with '*'. The information has been placed in the Library.

References should be made to footnotes when examining the data. It should be noted that a finished admission episode is the first period of in-patient care under one consultant within one health care provider. Finished admission episodes are counted against the year in which the admission episode finishes. Admissions do not represent the number of in-patients, as a person may have more than one admission within the year.

Khat

Mr. Sarwar: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate his Department has made of the number of people regularly using khat. [264908]

Dawn Primarolo: The Department does not collect this information.

However, the Home Office is planning to add questions to the British Crime Survey from October 2009 to ask respondents about self-reported use of khat ever, in the last year and in the last month.

Learning Disability

Norman Lamb: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate has been made of the number of people with a learning disability who are preserved rights service users. [265771]

Phil Hope: The information requested is not collected centrally.

Leukaemia: Health Services

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much his Department has spent on *(a)* treatment of and *(b)* support for people diagnosed with leukaemia in (i) England, (ii) the North East, (iii) Tees Valley district and (iv) Middlesbrough South and East Cleveland constituency in each of the last 10 years. [264406]

Ann Keen: The information is not available in the format requested. The following table shows expenditure on haematological cancer, which includes leukaemia, for 2006-07, the first year that these data were collected at sub-category level. Information is provided for England, and for primary care trusts (PCTs) which serve the North East Strategic Health Authority (SHA) area, including the Tees Valley District, and Middlesbrough, South and East Cleveland constituency.

Expenditure on Haematological Cancer, 2006-07

Primary care trusts	*Expenditure (£)*
County Durham PCT	4,302,000
Darlington PCT	611,000

Expenditure on Haematological Cancer, 2006-07

Primary care trusts	*Expenditure (£)*
Gateshead PCT	1,179,000
Hartlepool PCT	514,000
Middlesbrough PCT	1,476,000
Newcastle PCT	1,734,000
North Tyneside PCT	1,153,000
Northumberland Care Trust	1,218,000
Redcar and Cleveland PCT	1,263,000
South Tyneside PCT	1,258,000
Stockton-on-Tees Teaching PCT	1,000,000
England	470,869,000

Notes:
1. England data include the Department, SHA, Special Health Authority as well as PCT expenditure.
2. PCT data include spend by national health service foundation trusts.
Source:
Programme Budgeting.

Leukaemia: Hertfordshire

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much his Department has spent on *(a)* treatment of and *(b)* support for people diagnosed with leukaemia in (i) Hemel Hempstead and (ii) Hertfordshire in each of the last 10 years. [265795]

Ann Keen: The information is not available in the format requested. West Hertfordshire Primary Care Trust (PCT) and East and North Hertfordshire PCT expenditure on haematological cancer which includes leukaemia, for 2006-07, the first year that these data were collected at sub-category level is as follows:

	£ million
West Hertfordshire PCT	2.3
East and North Hertfordshire PCT	2.0

Mental Health Services: Prisons

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many psychiatric beds for the treatment of prisoners with mental health disorders there are in each prison institution; and if he will make a statement. [264952]

Phil Hope: There are no dedicated national health service psychiatric beds within the prison service. However, as part of the Government's commitment to improving the mental health of high risk offenders with personality disorder, the National Offender Management Service (NOMS) currently provides 168 beds which provide specialist psychological interventions in three prison pilot sites.

The responsibility for prison mental health care transferred fully to primary care trusts (PCTs) in 2006. All prison mental health services are now mainstreamed within the NHS, where the Offender Assessment System reception-screening tool can assess quickly all prisoners with health concerns, including mental illness, and, where appropriate, refer them to mental health inreach teams.

NHS prison mental health services are provided through 102 inreach teams, to which all prisons have access. Not everyone with a severe mental illness needs care in a psychiatric bed, even in an emergency. Most mental health treatment and care is delivered in prison primary care settings, as is other NHS treatment (e.g. for prisoners with diabetes or heart disease) unless urgent treatment is needed, when prisoners can be transferred to the NHS outside of the prison service.

A person whose mental illness is too severe to justify their remaining in prison is transferred to NHS secure services. In 2007, 934 prisoners with severe mental illness were transferred to hospital, compared to 723 in 2002, an increase of 29 per cent.

The Government asked Lord Bradley in December 2007 to carry out a review into diversion away from prison of offenders with mental health or learning disability problems. We expect to publish Lord Bradley's report by the end of April 2009, and to issue the Government's response at the same time. The Department, Ministry of Justice and Home Office will publish "Improving Health, Supporting Justice" an offender health strategy later this year, which will take account of the recommendations that Lord Bradley will make.

Mentally Ill

Mr. Willetts: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 9 March 2009, *Official Report*, column 145W, on mentally ill: young people, what the rate of admissions for mental health conditions per 1,000 admissions for 18 to 21 year-olds was for *(a)* university hospitals, *(b)* other hospitals and *(c)* all hospitals in each of the last 10 years. [264153]

Phil Hope: The exact data requested are not held centrally. However, the data available on the rate of admissions for mental health conditions per 1,000 admissions have been placed in the Library.

Note:
The Information Centre cannot provide breakdown by hospital so we have produced the analysis using Provider.

Mentally Ill: Prisoners

Mr. Garnier: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many and what proportion of prisoners have been diagnosed with mental health problems relating to time served in the armed forces in each of the last 10 years. [265826]

Phil Hope: This information is not collected centrally.

The Ministry of Justice (MOJ) is currently undertaking research on ex-service personnel in prisons. The MOJ aims to have initial findings on the proportion of veterans among the prison population and their spread across establishments in England and Wales later this year. Research would follow this on the nature of veterans offending and the factors that might have contributed.

Mid Staffordshire NHS Foundation Trust

Mr. Cash: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) if he will establish a public inquiry into the performance of Mid Staffordshire NHS Foundation Trust; [266076]

(2) what the remit is of each of the inquiries established by the Government and announced in his oral Statement of 18 March 2009, *Official Report*,

columns 909-24, on Mid Staffordshire NHS Foundation Trust, to examine matters arising out of the Healthcare Commission's findings on Mid Staffordshire NHS Foundation Trust; and when he expects each of those inquiries to *(a)* commence and *(b)* complete their work. [266077]

Mr. Bradshaw: No. The Healthcare Commission is an independent regulator. In view of their thorough investigation and report, together with the resulting recommendations, we do not consider it necessary to hold a public inquiry into events at the Mid Staffordshire National Health Service Foundation Trust. We are satisfied that the Healthcare Commission's report covered all the key issues and is the result of a robust investigation.

Professor Sir George Alberti, one of the country's most respected experts in emergency care, has been asked to independently review the Trust's procedures for emergency admissions and treatment and its progress against the recommendations in the report. In addition, Dr. David Colin-Thomé, National Director for Primary Care, will in parallel review the circumstances that occurred at the Mid Staffordshire NHS Foundation Trust prior to the Healthcare Commission's investigation in order to learn lessons nationally about how the commissioning system failed to expose and prevent the failings which have been identified.

Both of these reviews are not intended to duplicate the work already undertaken by the Healthcare Commission and the findings are expected to be published following the Easter recess. The letters to both Professor Alberti and Dr Colin-Thomé have been placed in the Library.

The National Quality Board has also been asked to look at the alignment of the national systems and processes in place for detecting and responding to potential serious failings in patient care in light of the Healthcare Commission's report. The detailed terms of reference are in development and will be finalised shortly when they will be made public. This work is expected to be completed by the end of the year.

The new leadership team at the Trust is also committed to carrying out an independent review of the case notes where this is requested by relatives of patients in order to determine if the care provided was appropriate.

Multiple Sclerosis

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) how many people diagnosed with multiple sclerosis there are in *(a)* England, *(b)* the North East, *(c)* Tees Valley district and *(d)* Middlesbrough South and East Cleveland constituency; [264370]

(2) how much his Department has spent on *(a)* treatment of and *(b)* support for people diagnosed with multiple sclerosis in (i) England, (ii) the North East, (iii) Tees Valley district and (iv) Middlesbrough South and East Cleveland constituency in each of the last 10 years. [264404]

Ann Keen: Information on the number of people diagnosed with specific medical conditions including multiple sclerosis, and the cost of their treatment and support, is not collected.

Multiple Sclerosis: Hertfordshire

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) how much his Department has spent on *(a)* treatment of and *(b)* support for people diagnosed with multiple sclerosis in (i) Hemel Hempstead and (ii) Hertfordshire in each of the last 10 years; [265796]

(2) how many people diagnosed with multiple sclerosis there are in *(a)* Hemel Hempstead and *(b)* Hertfordshire. [265798]

Ann Keen: Information on the number of people diagnosed with specific medical conditions including multiple sclerosis, and the cost of their treatment and support, is not collected.

Neonatal Mortality: Research

Mr. Lidington: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) how much and what proportion of its budget the Medical Research Council plans to spend on researching neonatal mortality in 2008-09; [265414]

(2) how much and what proportion of its budget the National Institute for Health Research plans to spend on researching neonatal mortality in 2008-09; [265415]

(3) how much and what proportion of its budget his Department's Policy Research Programme plans to spend on researching neonatal mortality in 2008-09; [265416]

(4) how much is being spent by the Government on researching the causes of neonatal and stillbirth deaths in 2008-09. [265419]

Dawn Primarolo: The available information in respect of research concerned with neonatal death is shown in the following table.

Estimated expenditure on neonatal mortality research 2008-09	*£000*	*Proportion of total expenditure (percentage)*
National Institute for Health Research[1] (NIHR)	846	0.14
Policy Research Programme[2] (PRP)	1,514	4.6
Medical Research Council (MRC)	[3]—	[3]—

[1] This figure does not include the cost of projects undertaken in the NHS and supported by NIHR transitional support funding. That information is not available.

[2] Includes the total financial allocation made in 2008-09 to the National Perinatal Epidemiology Unit and the British Paediatric Surveillance Unit.

[3] Not yet available

The NIHR clinical research network is additionally supporting a number of potentially relevant studies. Details are available on the network's portfolio database at:

www.ukcrn.org.uk/index/clinical/portfolio_new.html

The estimated total NIHR and PRP expenditure on neonatal mortality and stillbirth research in 2008-09 is £4.6 million. Again, information in respect of MRC spend in these areas is not yet available.

NHS Foundation Trusts

Mr. Gordon Prentice: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many applications for Foundation Trust status were under assessment by the Independent Regulator of NHS Foundation Trusts on the latest date for which figures are available; and what criteria are used in the authorisation of such applications. [265781]

Mr. Bradshaw: We are informed by the chairman of Monitor (the statutory name of which is the independent regulator of NHS foundation trusts) that as at 20 March 2009 there are 20 applicants for NHS foundation trust (NHS FT) status in Monitor's assessment process. The list of applicants is updated on Monitor's website:

www.monitor-nhsft.gov.uk/home/becoming-nhs-foundation-trust/current-applicants

A detailed description of the assessment process for NHS FT applicants is set out in the document "Applying for NHS Foundation Trust Status—Guide for Applicants" (Monitor and the Department of Health, November 2008). A copy of this document has been placed in the Library and is also available from Monitor's website:

www.monitor-nhsft.gov.uk/home/becoming-nhs-foundation-trust

Monitor has three main criteria which it applies to all applicants for NHS FT status. The applicant trust must be:

Legally constituted;

Well governed; and

Financially viable.

Monitor's intensive assessment process takes approximately three months. Trusts must submit a wide range of information as evidence to support each category. Monitor reviews all the evidence submitted triangulating with key trust stakeholders including primary care trusts, strategic health authorities and the Healthcare Commission, and probes the boards of each applicant trust to examine their capability to operate autonomously by questioning different aspects of their application, examples of which include:

Does the board have arrangements in place for monitoring and continually improving the quality of health care provided to its patients?

How is the board assured that it has action plans in place to meet existing targets and national core standards?

Are there clear structures and comprehensive procedures in place for the effective working of the NHS foundation trust board?

Is the board confident that the senior management has the capability to and experience necessary to deliver the strategy set out in its business plan?

NHS: Administration

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many administrators were employed by the NHS in England in *(a)* each of the last three years, *(b)* 1996-97, *(c)* 1997-98 and *(d)* 1998-99. [265598]

Ann Keen: The number of administrative and clerical staff employed by the national health service in England in the years requested is given in the following table.

NHS hospital and community health services: Administrative and clerical staff in England by area of work as at 30 September each specified year

Headcount

	1996	*1997*	*1998*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*
England	160,347	160,479	162,521	233,174	224,302	220,187
Central functions[1]	70,621	70,647	71,079	105,565	101,860	100,177
Hotel, property and estates[2]	11,604	10,782	10,025	8,553	7,107	6,831
ST and T support[3]	12,760	12,584	12,703	16,028	14,731	13,857
Clinical support[4]	62,882	63,971	66,145	99,742	97,357	95,982
Ambulance service support[5]	2,480	2,495	2,569	3,286	3,247	3,340

[1] This group includes areas such as personnel, finance, IT, legal services, library services, health education and general management support services.
[2] This group includes clerical and administrative staff working in areas such as laundry, catering, domestic services and gardens.
[3] Scientific, therapeutic and technical support staff.
[4] Clinical support includes clerical and administrative staff and maintenance and works staff working specifically in clinical areas, for example medical secretaries and medical records officers.
[5] Staff in direct support of patient care, such as control assistants.
Source:
The NHS Information Centre for health and social care

Non-profit Making Associations

Norman Lamb: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what progress has been made on pathfinder sites for the development of social enterprises; and if he will make a statement. [265759]

Phil Hope: This information is not held centrally. The Department's approach is to let the Pathfinders make progress and then evaluate them. The Department has commissioned an external evaluation of the Social Enterprise Pathfinders. The evaluation report is expected in July 2009.

Norman Lamb: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much money has been provided by his Department to each social enterprise pathfinder site. [265764]

Phil Hope: The information requested is shown in the following table.

Strategic health authority	*Name of social enterprise pathfinder organisation*	*Award (£)*
North East	Delivering Connected Care in Hartlepool	318,255
	Developing Partners Project	137,534
	Dementia Care Partnership	548,755
North West	Alston Healthcare	1,270,500
	Salford Health Matters	312,275
Yorkshire and the Humber	City Healthcare Partnership	134,000
	The Open Door	2,392,648
East Midlands	Leicester Homeless Primary Care Service	45,970

Strategic health authority	*Name of social enterprise pathfinder organisation*	*Award (£)*
	Principia Partners in Health	63,000
West Midlands	Apna Sehat	230,898
	Health Equality Lifestyle Plan	134,000
	Willow Bank CIC	72,700
East of England	Healthy Living Centre Southend	555,000
	Lifestyle Solutions	705,000
London	Bromley By Bow	147,728
	Service User Led Direct Payments	442,000
	The Bridge	95,000
	Secure Healthcare	401,000
South East Coast	MiLife (Formerly Lorica Learning Disabilities)	274,799
	Surrey Community Provider Services	105,000
South Central	Milton Keynes Health and Social Care	87,000
	SCA Healthcare	946,100
South West	Community Docs for All	81,664
	Devon Healthy Living CIC	266,026
	Forest of Dean Health Enterprise Trust	101,500

Nurses: Manpower

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many *(a)* headcount and *(b)* full-time equivalent GP practice nurses there were in each year since 1997. [265340]

Ann Keen: The number of general practitioner (GP) practice nurses by headcount and full-time equivalent in each year since 1997 is given in the following table:

GP practice nurses in England, 1997-2007

	Number (headcount)	*Full-time equivalent*
1997	18,389	10,082
1998	18,894	10,350
1999	19,095	10,609
2000	19,200	10,711
2001	19,846	11,163
2002	20,983	11,998
2003	21,667	12,967
2004	22,144	13,563
2005	22,904	13,703
2006	23,797	14,616
2007	22,860	14,554

Notes:
1. Data as at 1 October 1997-99, 30 September 2000-07.
2. *Data Quality* Workforce statistics are compiled from data sent by more than 300 NHS trusts and primary care trusts in England. The NHS Information Centre for health and social care liaises closely with these organisations to encourage submission of complete and valid data and seeks to minimise inaccuracies and the effect of missing and invalid data. Processing methods and procedures are continually being updated to improve data quality. Where this happens any impact on figures already published will be assessed but unless this is significant at national level they will not be changed. Where there is impact only at detailed or local level this will be footnoted in relevant analyses.
Source:
The Information Centre for health and social care General and Personal Medical Services Statistics

Palliative Care

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent assessment he has made of the adequacy of NHS resources for long-term palliative care; and if he will make a statement. [265646]

Phil Hope: Primary care trusts (PCTs) are responsible for funding, developing and delivering end of life care services locally and it is for them to decide on the adequacy of the resources they allocate.

To support the End of Life Care Strategy, published in July 2008, a copy of which has already been placed in the Library, a survey was conducted of PCT expenditure on specialist palliative care, including hospices. This showed the level of local resources used in these services and provides a helpful benchmark for PCTs. However, the resources used for 'generalist' palliative care, that is, care which could be provided by any health or social care practitioner, are impossible to determine.

Work to develop the strategy showed that money spent in end of life care is not always as well used as it might be. A key aim of the strategy is, therefore, to ensure better use of existing resources. In addition, the Government are investing an extra £286 million in end of life care services over the two years 2009-10 and 2010-11. This will help support those areas, such as training and the development of community services, that need special attention.

Perinatal Mortality

Mr. Lidington: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what guidance his Department has issued to NHS trusts and primary care trusts about the provision of support to parents whose children are stillborn; [265418]

(2) how many specialist neonatal intensive care units there are in each strategic health authority area in England; [265420]

(3) what steps the Government has taken to prevent stillbirths and neonatal deaths in England; and if he will make a statement. [265423]

Ann Keen: The maternity standard of the "National Service Framework for Children Young People and Maternity Services", published in September 2004, includes guidance for national health service maternity care providers on the provision of comprehensive, culturally sensitive, multi-disciplinary policies, services and facilities for the management and support of families who have experienced a maternal or neonatal death or stillbirth. A copy of the framework has already been placed in the Library. In addition, "When a patient dies: Advice on developing bereavement services in the NHS", published in October 2005, provides advice to the national health service on the basic principles and elements considered necessary in developing bereavement services locally, including for stillbirth and neonatal death. A copy has been placed in the Library.

The Government are committed to improving outcomes for both mothers and babies. We promote a number of interventions to help prevent stillbirths and neonatal deaths, including smoking cessation, eating healthily and tackling obesity, reducing teenage pregnancy and encouraging early booking with maternity services. We also fund the confidential inquiry into maternal and child health, which publishes an annual report into perinatal mortality, including stillbirth and neonatal death that monitors changes in the rates, causes and identifies risk factors.

The latest information from the 2007-08 Child Health Mapping shows that there are 166 neonatal intensive care units (NICU) in England. The following table gives the distribution of units by strategic health authority.

Strategic health authority	*Number of NICU in 2007-08*
East Midlands	10
East of England	17
London	28
North East	10
North West	25
South Central	13
South East Coast	16
South West	13
West Midlands	15
Yorkshire and the Humber	19
Total	166

Source:

A profile of children's health services, child and adolescent mental health services and maternity services in England 2007-08 (Durham University)

Rheumatology

Miss Begg: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will take steps to develop a commissioning pathway for rheumatoid arthritis and supporting toolkit in order to provide robust and consistent standards of care throughout the patient journey. [265101]

Ann Keen: An inflammatory arthritis commissioning pathway is in development in conjunction with the Rheumatology Futures group.

The first draft of the pathway is currently being produced. This draft will then be discussed at a consensus event in April 2009 where key stakeholders will be able to challenge the pathway and reach consensus on what the 'ideal' pathway would look like.

The aim is that the pathway will be published shortly after the consensus event, and will be promoted and hosted on the Department's 18 weeks website.

Miss Begg: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will take steps to promote greater integration of knowledge about rheumatology treatment between primary care teams and specialist rheumatology professionals in order to *(a)* enable and *(b)* support patient self-management. [265102]

Ann Keen: We have no specific plans to promote greater integration between primary care teams and specialist rheumatology professionals.

Shrewsbury and Telford Hospital NHS Trust

Mark Pritchard: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will have discussions with the Shrewsbury and Telford Hospital NHS Trust on its reconfiguration of acute services. [265632]

Dawn Primarolo: Proposals for the reconfiguration of services are a matter for the national health service locally, which in this case means all four NHS organisations in Shropshire, working in conjunction with clinicians, patients and other stakeholders, as they understand the needs of local patients best.

The hon. Member will be aware that a full public and stakeholder engagement and consultation process will take place in spring 2009. We encourage him and his constituents to fully engage in this.

Sight Impaired: Children

Sandra Gidley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many children of each age under 17 years old have been prescribed glasses in each of the last 10 years. [264911]

Ann Keen: National health service funded sight tests and NHS optical vouchers are available to all children under the age of 16 and those aged between 16 and 18 in full time education.

The following table shows the number of optical vouchers redeemed for those aged under 16 and aged between 16 and 18 in full time education over the last 10 years. Statistics are not collected broken down by each age group. The Department does not collect statistics on the number of glasses prescribed following a private sight test.

The total numbers of optical vouchers do not necessarily relate to the number of children as some children will have had more than one optical voucher in any 12 month period.

	Children aged 0 to 15	*Children aged 16 to 18 in full time education*
2007-08	1,069,393	271,466
2006-07	1,011,619	257,918
2005-06	996,535	244,534
2004-05	997,768	236,065
2003-04	1,022,964	233,530
2002-03	992,212	252,713
2001-02	1,129,672	261,429
2000-01	1,094,277	254,896
1999-2000	1,097,435	250,503
1998-99	1,110,464	258,106

Smoking: Hertfordshire

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many people resident in *(a)* Hemel Hempstead and *(b)* Hertfordshire have received assistance from the NHS to stop smoking in each of the last five years. [265816]

Dawn Primarolo: The information requested is not available in the format requested. Data are available on the number of people setting a quit date and successfully quitting through the NHS Stop Smoking Services for West Hertfordshire Primary Care Trust (PCT) and East and North Hertfordshire PCT in 2006-07 and 2007-08 and for South East Hertfordshire PCT and North Hertfordshire and Stevenage PCT for 2004-05 through to 2006-07.

Information for 2007-08 is available from the annual report "Statistics on NHS Stop Smoking Services in England, April 2007 to March 2008". This information can be found in table 3.5 on page 29. This publication has already been placed in the Library.

Information for 2006-07 is available for both the old and new strategic health authority (SHA) and PCT area breakdowns from the annual report "Statistics on NHS Stop Smoking Services in England, April 2006 to March 2007". This information can be found in table 2.12 (old breakdown) and table 5.4 (new breakdown) on pages 21 and 66 respectively. This publication has already been placed in the Library.

Information for 2005-06 is available for the old PCT and SHA breakdowns from the annual report "Statistics on NHS Stop Smoking Services in England, April 2005 to March 2006". This information can be found in table 4.12 on page 40. This publication has already been placed in the Library.

Information for 2004-05 is available for the old PCT and SHA breakdowns from the annual report "Statistics on NHS Stop Smoking Services in England, April 2004 to March 2005". This information can be found in table 19 on page 56. This publication has already been placed in the Library.

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate his Department has made of the cost to the NHS of treating smoking-related diseases in *(a)* Hemel Hempstead and *(b)* Hertfordshire in each of the last five years. [265817]

Dawn Primarolo: The Department has not made such an estimate. The hon. Member may wish to raise his query directly with West Hertfordshire Primary Care Trust (PCT) and East and North Hertfordshire PCT, which cover Hertfordshire.

Social Care: Research

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 23 February 2009, *Official Report*, column 253W, on social care: research, when each of the two academic studies are due to be completed; and if he will publish them upon completion. [266224]

Phil Hope: The research undertaken by Professor Mayhew of Cass Business School, concerning financial products that could potentially support private contributions in a new care and support system, was published in January 2009 and is available on following website:

www.cass.city.ac.uk/arc/reportspages/actuarial2009.html

The second piece of research, being undertaken by the Personal Social Services Research Unit to make projections of likely future demand for long-term care, is still ongoing. The intention is that these findings will be published following completion in due course.

Social Services: Elderly

Norman Lamb: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much each local authority spent on *(a)* residential care and *(b)* domiciliary care for older people in each of the last 10 years. [265758]

Phil Hope: Data on local authority expenditure on domiciliary and residential care for older people are collected and published by the NHS Information Centre for health and social care.

Information showing the total amounts spent on domiciliary and residential care for older people aged 65 and over by local authority from 1998-99 to 2007-08 has been placed in the Library.

Stabilisation Aid Fund

Dr. Murrison: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 23 February 2009, *Official Report*, column 40W, on the Stabilisation Aid Fund, whether the £15,350,000 transferred to the Foreign and Commonwealth Office is counted for the purpose of the calculation of total expenditure on overseas development assistance; and if he will make a statement. [264858]

Mr. Hutton: I have been asked to reply.

The Stabilisation Aid Fund, amounting to £73 million in 2008-09, is required to spend £58 million on Overseas Development Assistance (ODA) eligible activities. Money transferred to the FCO at Spring Supplementary Estimates (SSE) was based on estimated forecast expenditure across a portfolio of projects, a high proportion of which include ODA-eligible activity.

Teenage Pregnancy

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the under-18 year old conception rates were in each *(a)* ward and *(b)* local authority area in England in the latest period for which figures are available. [265543]

Kevin Brennan: I have been asked to reply

The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the Authority to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated March 2009:

As National Statistician I have been asked to reply to your recent question asking what the under 18 year old conception rates were in each *(a)* ward and *(b)* local authority in England in the latest period for which figures are available. (265543)

Available figures are estimates of the number of conceptions that resulted in a live birth and/or stillbirth (a maternity) or a legal termination.

The numbers and rates of conceptions to under 18 year olds by local authority in England for 2007 (the most recent year for which figures are available), are shown in the table. Copies have been placed in the Library of the House. Figures for 2007 are provisional.

Figures on conceptions to women aged under 18 are not routinely published by wards due to concerns in maintaining the confidentiality of individuals.

University Hospitals of Morecambe Bay NHS Trust

Mr. Wallace: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent discussions he has had with university hospitals in Morecambe Bay NHS Trust on the performance of their accident and emergency departments. [265917]

Mr. Bradshaw: Ministers have not had any direct discussions with the University hospitals of Morecambe Bay national health service trust on performance at accident and emergency (A&E) departments within that organisation.

NHS trusts in England are expected to meet the four-hour A&E operational standard of 98 per cent. of patients being seen, diagnosed and treated within four hours of their arrival at A&E. This standard is set out as an existing commitment for the NHS to meet in "The NHS in England: The Operating Framework for 2008/09", a copy of which has already been placed in the Library. It is for primary care trusts and strategic health authorities to work with NHS organisations to ensure they are providing an appropriate level of high quality care for patients, and work closely with challenged organisations.

WORK AND PENSIONS

Carer's Premium

Steve Webb: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will estimate the effect on public expenditure of abolishing the carers' premium element of pension credit in each of the next six years. [257197]

Ms Rosie Winterton: Pension credit tops up income to a minimum of £124.05 for single pensioners (£189.35 for couples) aged 60 and over. People who are entitled to carer's allowance may benefit from an additional amount which increases their minimum guarantee by £27.75 (which is doubled where both members of a couple are entitled to carer's allowance).

The table gives estimates of the saving associated with abolishing the additional amount for carers, all else remaining unchanged.

Estimated savings due to abolishing the carer's additional amount in pension credit, all else remaining unchanged

	£ million
2009-10	370
2010-11	390
2011-12	400
2012-13	410
2013-14	410
2014-15	420

Note:
Estimates include the savings on housing benefit and council tax benefit from abolishing the additional amount for carers.
Sources:
1. Forecasts of pension credit case loads
2. Modelling using the Policy Simulation Model

Cold Weather Payments

Jim Cousins: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will make an assessment of the merits of extending cold weather payments to other categories of income-related benefits. [264732]

Kitty Ussher *[holding answer 19 March 2009]:* To enable us to target limited resources at those who are most in need, eligibility for cold weather payments is based on receipt of a range of income-related benefits. Eligible customers are those in receipt of pension credit or income-related employment and support allowance that includes a work-related activity or support component. Those in receipt of income support, income-based jobseeker's allowance or income-related employment and support allowance in the assessment phase are also eligible if they have a pensioner or disability premium included in their benefit or they have a child who is disabled or under the age of five in the family. There are no plans to extend Cold Weather Payments to other categories of income-related benefits.

Cold Weather Payments: East Kilbride

Mr. Ingram: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions on what date the postcodes G74, G75 and ML10 were allocated to the Bishopton weather station for determining the payment of cold weather payments; which weather station was used for households in those postcode areas prior to that date; and how the mean average temperature for the East Kilbride and Strathaven area is calculated. [261388]

Kitty Ussher *[holding answer 10 March 2009]:* Postcodes G74 and G75 were allocated to the Bishopton weather station for determining the payment of cold weather payments from November 1999. Prior to that date these postcodes were allocated to Abbotsinch (Glasgow Airport) weather station.

Postcode ML10 was allocated to Salsburgh weather station from November 1997. Prior to that it was allocated to Abbotsinch (Glasgow Airport) weather station. Postcode ML10 has never been allocated to Bishopton weather station.

The monthly/seasonal temperature averages for East Kilbride for the 30-year period 1971-2000, which is the latest standard 30-year period used for climate statistics, have been calculated using the observed temperatures from the climate station that was open in East Kilbride during that period.

Housing Benefit: Expenditure

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much was spent on housing benefit in each year since 1997 expressed in 2008-09 prices. [265288]

Kitty Ussher: The information requested is in the table.

Total housing benefit expenditure in Great Britain in real terms, 2008-09 prices

	£ million
1997-98	14,659
1998-99	14,211
1999-2000	13,936
2000-01	13,877
2001-02	14,101
2002-03	14,909
2003-04	14,152
2004-05	14,691
2005-06	15,238
2006-07	15,810
2007-08	16,264

Notes:
1. Figures are in real terms, 2008-09 prices.
2. Expenditure covers the total amounts paid to beneficiaries, irrespective of the source of funding. This includes benefit spending reimbursed by DWP, spending on rent rebates financed within local authorities' housing revenue accounts, and benefit spending financed from local authorities' general funds. Includes expenditure on discretionary housing payments.
Source:
Local authority subsidy claims

Local Housing Allowance

Andrew Selous: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions whether rates of local housing allowance paid by local housing authorities are adjusted at the time of the outcome of a 12-month review of the rate of local housing allowance calculated by the Rent Service. [266153]

Kitty Ussher: Rent officers review and notify local housing allowance rates for a range of property sizes to local authorities each month. When a person living in the deregulated private rented sector claims housing benefit the local authority will use the appropriate local housing allowance rate, based on the area where the person lives and the size of their household, to determine the maximum amount to be included in the benefit calculation. That maximum amount will not be reviewed until the anniversary of the claim unless the person changes address or a change in the composition of the household affects the number of bedrooms it requires. At the point the maximum amount is reviewed, the local authority will apply the latest local housing allowance rate appropriate to the claim. This can lead to an adjustment, upwards or downwards, in the amount payable.

Andrew Selous: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions whether he plans to issue guidance to local authorities on the use of local housing allowance vulnerability criteria. [266154]

Kitty Ussher: Guidance on the use of vulnerability criteria was issued to local authorities prior to the national rollout of local housing allowance on 7 April 2008 and is kept under regular review. We are satisfied that the criteria are being applied in line with the policy intention and currently have no plans to revise them.

Low Incomes: Credit

Andrew Selous: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions which areas of the UK have received money from the Growth Fund to increase the provision of affordable credit. [265843]

Kitty Ussher *[holding answer 23 March 2009]*: As promised by my predecessor, on 7 March 2008, *Official Report*, column 2862W, this information is placed in the House of Commons Library and updated on a quarterly basis.

Through the Growth Fund the Department is increasing access to affordable credit for those at risk of financial exclusion. A further £38 million allocated from the Financial Inclusion Fund for the period 2008 to 2011 will be used to maintain and increase coverage in existing Growth Fund areas, and extend coverage to the highest priority, under-served areas identified by the Financial Inclusion Taskforce's recent mapping research.

Opinion Leader Research

Mr. Baron: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much his *(a)* Department and *(b)* its agencies have paid Opinion Leader Research in each year since December 2007. [266001]

Jonathan Shaw: The total payments made to Opinion Leader Research since 31 December 2007 are £33,622.75, as at end of February 2009.

Poverty: Children

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many responses were received to his Department's consultation on the draft Child Poverty Bill; and when he plans to publish the Bill. [264190]

Kitty Ussher: We have received around 240 responses to the e-consultation document.

The Child Poverty Unit also held a key stakeholders consultation event on 3 March to discuss the questions raised in the consultation document. Save the Children organised a number of events to get the views of children and young people, attended by 129 children.

In addition to consultation responses, Government Offices have held a series of consultation events with local authorities and other delivery partners to discuss the proposals set out in "Ending Child Poverty: Making it Happen".

We are still awaiting confirmation of the legislative timetable.

Social Fund

Julia Goldsworthy: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many applications for crisis loans from residents of each constituency were *(a)* made and *(b)* approved in each year since 1997; and what the average value of loan made was in each constituency in each of those years. [253662]

Kitty Ussher: The requested information is not available.

Data on crisis loans are not held by constituency, but by Jobcentre Plus Social Fund budget area. Before that they were held by Jobcentre Plus district and prior to that by Social Fund district. Since May 2002, there have been several changes to the boundaries of administrative areas. As a result, data which can be compared across time are available for all Jobcentre Plus Social Fund budget areas from September 2006 only.

The available annual information is given in the following table.

Crisis loans for 2007-08 for Great Britain

Jobcentre Plus Social Fund budget area (ordered by region)	*Applications received*	*Initial awards*	*Average initial award (£)*
East of England			
Essex	52,660	36,270	78
Norwich Benefit Delivery Centre	114,960	75,380	73
East Midlands			
East Midlands North	43,130	31,400	77
South East Midlands	61,240	36,450	88
London			
Central and East London	54,410	40,060	90
London South	59,690	46,440	112
North and North East London	34,580	24,580	90
West London	35,100	24,200	98

Crisis loans for 2007-08 for Great Britain

Jobcentre Plus Social Fund budget area (ordered by region)	*Applications received*	*Initial awards*	*Average initial award (£)*
North East			
Northumbria	52,730	35,470	80
South Tyne and Wear Valley	68,250	46,350	91
Tees Valley	36,940	28,190	92
North West			
Chorlton Benefit Delivery Centre	194,310	140,560	83
Greater Liverpool and Cheshire	137,650	100,220	90
Scotland			
Inverness Benefit Delivery Centre	137,400	95,780	69
Springburn Benefit Delivery Centre	262,180	170,530	79
South East			
Berkshire, Oxfordshire, Buckinghamshire and Surrey	87,740	64,310	72
Hampshire, Isle of Wight, Kent and Sussex	151,200	113,430	80
South West			
South West Central	97,470	67,100	81
Wales			
Llanelli Benefit Delivery Centre	48,740	34,330	69
South East Wales	75,400	45,400	76
West Midlands			
West Midlands Social Fund	140,110	76,000	84
Yorkshire and Humberside			
Bradford	39,880	28,860	102
Sheffield	119,430	69,770	71

Notes:

1. Figures are for initial awards only. Awards made after review are not included.
2. Figures are rounded to the nearest 10.

Source:

DWP Social Fund Policy, Budget and Management Information System.

Andrew Selous: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what consideration he has given to authorising the provision of good quality second-hand furniture from the Social Fund when it makes grants in kind; and if he will make a statement. [265842]

Kitty Ussher *[holding answer 23 March 2009]:* The Welfare Reform Bill includes the power to arrange for the provision of goods or services rather than cash to people awarded Community Care Grants.

In deciding on the arrangements to be made with suppliers we will consider a wide range of requirements that need to be met and we hope to be able to offer a range of products.

All suppliers who feel that they can meet the criteria of the tender will be welcome to bid to provide goods and services and each submission will be considered on its own merits.

In addition our forthcoming consultation paper on reform of the Social Fund will discuss whether we can provide greater signposting to recycled furniture providers where appropriate.

NORTHERN IRELAND

AccessNI

Sammy Wilson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many members of staff were employed by AccessNI in each month since April 2008. [264747]

Paul Goggins: The information requested is shown in the following table.

Date	*Number of AccessNI staff*
1 April 2008	22
1 May 2008	22
1 June 2008	26
1 July 2008	28
1 August 2008	44
1 September 2008	47
1 October 2008	51
1 November 2008	61
1 December 2008	51
1 January 2009	54
1 February 2009	50
1 March 2009	50

Sammy Wilson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many *(a)* basic, *(b)* standard and *(c)* enhanced applications have been processed by AccessNI in each month since April 2008; and what percentage of each category was completed within the performance target time. [264748]

Paul Goggins: The following table sets out the number of disclosures processed on a monthly basis since April 2008.

Date	*Basic*	*Standard*	*Enhanced*
April-May 2008	1,247	106	2,665
June	1,406	162	3,397
July	1,826	233	2,831
August	1,461	737	7,596
September	1,488	94	11,504
October	918	376	17,481
November	1,639	362	15,311
December	991	262	10,027
January 2009	1,265	351	9,399
February	1,566	134	7,755
March (to 13th)	896	132	4,815

AccessNI failed to meet its service standards for enhanced applications during the period April to December 2008. Since December 2008 AccessNI has continued to achieve its 90 per cent. service standards.

Departmental Air Travel

Mr. Redwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many journeys *(a)* he and his predecessors and *(b)* his officials made by aeroplane in the course of their duties in each of the last five years. [246671]

Mr. Woodward: As the right hon. Member will be aware, as with my predecessors, to fulfil my duties as Secretary of State in Northern Ireland and fulfil Cabinet obligations, it is necessary for me to travel to and from Northern Ireland regularly and frequently, often at short notice. Similarly, my officials, who work from both Belfast and London, are required to make journeys by aeroplane in the course of their duties.

The figures shown in the following table are for the last three years only. Information for previous years could be provided only at disproportionate costs.

	Secretary of State	*Officials*
2007-08	136	3,618
2006-07	139	4,534
2005-06	116	5,758

Travel by Ministers and civil servants is undertaken in accordance with the Ministerial Code and the Civil Service Management Code respectively.

Departmental Data Protection

Anne Main: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what auditing his Department undertakes to ensure that IT security policies are being followed; and on how many occasions *(a)* IT security policies have been breached by employees and *(b)* a member of staff has been sanctioned for a breach of such policies in the last 12 months. [259825]

Paul Goggins: The Northern Ireland Office IT security policies are aligned with the Government's Security Policy Framework. The Department uses risk management, accreditation, testing, activity monitoring and independent appraisal to ensure that IT security policies are adhered to.

In the last 12 months, IT security policies have been breached on two occasions. Appropriate internal action was taken as a result.

Departmental Press

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how much his Department has spent on newspapers, magazines and periodicals in each year since 1997. [261206]

Mr. Woodward: The Northern Ireland Office's expenditure on newspapers since 1999-2000, excluding agencies and Executive NDPBs, is provided in the following table.

Financial Year	*Expenditure (£)*
2007-08	53,275
2006-07	68,510
2005-06	62,145
2004-05	70,706
2003-04	78,033
2002-03	78,278
2001-02	68,505
2000-01	61,138
1999-2000	59,088

No record of newspaper expenditure is available prior to 1999-2000.

Expenditure on magazines and periodicals is grouped with other general publication expenditure. It would not be possible to extract this spend from these figures except at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Visits Abroad

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how much expenditure was incurred in respect of overseas visits which *(a)* he, *(b)* other Ministers in his Department and *(c)* his Department's senior officials undertook in 2008. [262174]

Mr. Woodward: Since 1999, the Government have published a list of all overseas travel by Cabinet Ministers costing over £500. Information for the financial year 2007-08 was published on 22 July 2008, *Official Report*, column 102WS and for the first time, included details of overseas visits undertaken by all Ministers. All travel by Ministers is undertaken in accordance with the Ministerial Code.

Information on the cost of overseas visits by senior officials is not held centrally and therefore could be provided only at disproportionate cost. All official travel is undertaken in accordance with departmental rules and the Civil Service Management Code.

Domestic Violence: Sentencing

Mark Durkan: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what sentencing policy applies to people convicted of domestic violence offences in Northern Ireland; and how that policy is monitored. [263363]

Paul Goggins: While there is no specific sentencing policy in relation to domestic violence offences, the Government aim to ensure that legislation provides an appropriate range of offences, and makes available the right level and type of sentencing options, so that the Public Prosecution Service and the courts can respond effectively to violent crimes including those arising out of a domestic violence incident. In the case of domestic violence, these include penalties for breaches of civil orders.

The legislation is kept under review: for example, the Criminal Justice (NI) Order 2008 was the result of a fundamental review of sentencing law and made available new public protection sentences for dangerous violent and sexual offenders.

Once legislation is in place, sentencing in an individual case is of course a matter for the judge, taking into account the specific circumstances of the particular case. The Northern Ireland Court of Appeal delivers guideline judgments on sentencing in Northern Ireland which encourage consistency in sentencing throughout the courts of Northern Ireland and support sentencers in their decision-making.

The courts have found that domestic violence cases should be regarded as particularly serious because of the vulnerability of victims to the infliction of violence. The Court of Appeal has also commented that guidance from the Sentencing Guidelines Council in England and Wales may be applied in this jurisdiction where it is appropriate to local conditions. The Council issued guidance entitled "Overarching Principles: Domestic

Violence" on 18 December 2006 and this sets out the principles to be applied in passing sentence for these types of offence.

Northern Ireland Compensation Agency

Sammy Wilson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how much has been paid in compensation by the Northern Ireland Compensation Agency in each of the last five years. [264745]

Paul Goggins: The following table shows the amounts paid out in each of the last five years.

	£000
2004-05	50,853
2005-06	51,971
2006-07	41,662
2007-08	50,175
2008-09	31,800

Note:
2008-09 figures are up to end of February 2009.

Opinion Leader Research

Mr. Baron: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how much his Department has paid Opinion Leader Research in each year since November 2007. [265999]

Paul Goggins: The Northern Ireland Office (excluding agencies and executive NDPBs) has made no payments to Opinion Leader Research since November 2007.

Prisons: Finance

Sammy Wilson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how much is planned to be spent on capital works for the prison estate in Northern Ireland over the next five years. [264742]

Paul Goggins: During the remainder of the CSR07 period, to March 2011, the Northern Ireland Prison Service plan to spend some £40 million capital funding on the prison estate. This includes delivery of additional cellular accommodation.

While capital funding beyond this period will not be agreed until the next spending review round, the service is proceeding with planned capital investments in line with ministerial commitments including a contribution to the joint College at Desertcreat, the redevelopment of Magilligan prison and the potential development flowing from the recommendations of the women offenders strategy published last month.

Prisons: Operating Costs

Sammy Wilson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what the running costs of each prison in Northern Ireland were in each of the last five years. [264744]

Paul Goggins: The running costs of each prison in each of the last five years are shown in the following table.

			£ million
	Maghaberry	*Magilligan*	*Hydebank*
2007-08	54.668	26.870	22.310
2006-07	55.024	27.045	22.455
2005-06	52.732	25.919	21.520
2004-05	46.506	22.859	18.979
2003-04	45.285	22.258	18.481

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Conflict Prevention Pool

John Barrett: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what recent discussions he has had with the Secretary of State for Defence and the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs on new priority areas for Conflict Prevention Pools and associated funding. [266166]

Mr. Michael Foster: Priorities for the Conflict Prevention Pool have been under review in order to respond to changing demands. Plans for 2009-10 have been discussed with my right hon. Friends the Foreign Secretary and the Defence Secretary. My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary will issue a statement to the House on this matter later this week.

Departmental Billing

Mr. Oaten: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what percentage of invoices from suppliers his Department has settled within 10 days of receipt in the last four months. [266245]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: The Department for International Development's (DFID's) payment performance for the last four months is:

Month	*Percentage of correctly rendered invoices paid within 10 working days*
November	50
December	57
January	75
February	70

Overseas Aid: Health Education

Chris McCafferty: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what discussions he has had with the governments of other donor countries on new global initiatives for funding sexual, reproductive and maternal health and education projects in developing countries. [266090]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: Ministers and officials from the Department for International Development (DFID) have recently had extensive discussions with a range of other donor countries including Norway, the United States, Canada, Sweden, Finland and the Netherlands on how, collectively, global efforts to improve maternal and child health can be accelerated. Sexual and reproductive health and rights has been an important element of these discussions. DFID Ministers and officials have also had discussions with the heads and officials from various international agencies (including the World Health Organisation, The UN Population Fund and the World Bank) on all of these issues.

The UK has committed to spending £6 billion on strengthening health systems and services over the seven years to 2015. Strong health education programmes, including sexual and reproductive health and maternal health, are key elements of a well functioning health system.

Palestinians: Overseas Aid

Andrew Stunell: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what steps he has taken since February 2009 to ensure that Government and non-governmental aid from the UK reaches intended recipients in Gaza. [264387]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: The UK Government have, before and after February 2009, maintained robust monitoring and evaluation mechanisms to ensure aid reaches its intended recipients in Gaza.

There are well developed international mechanisms for the delivery of aid in Gaza, principally the United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) and the World Food Programme (WFP). The Department for International Development (DFID) ensures that all non-governmental organisations (NGOs) it funds have experience of operating in Gaza, hold the necessary expertise and resources and also have robust monitoring and evaluation frameworks.

Security Sector Reform

John Barrett: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what progress he has made towards establishing *(a)* a definition of and *(b)* objectives for security sector reform. [266167]

Mr. Michael Foster: The Department for International Development (DFID) has made an important contribution to the international community's approach to security sector reform, including the establishment of an internationally accepted definition and objectives. The Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) Development Assistance Committee (DAC) Guidelines on Security System Reform and Governance, agreed by OECD Ministers in 2004, define the security system as including: core security actors, security management and oversight bodies, justice and law enforcement and non-statutory security.

The OECD DAC Guidelines and the 2007 Handbook on Security System Reform state that the overall objective of international support to security system reform processes is to increase the ability of partner countries to meet the range of security and justice challenges they face, in a manner consistent with democratic norms, and sound principles of governance and the rule of law. Security sector reform helps create a secure environment conducive to other political, economic and social developments, through the reduction of armed violence and crime. The focus for international actors should be to support partner countries in achieving overarching objectives:

(i) Effective governance, oversight and accountability in the security system,

(ii) Improved and sustainable delivery of security and justice services,

(iii) Development of local leadership and ownership of the reform process.

John Barrett: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what assessment he has made of the effects of security sector reform on his Department's development policies. [266168]

Mr. Michael Foster: Security sector reform is a central pillar of the Department for International Development's (DFID) work on conflict prevention and a key component of our support for post conflict recovery and peace-building. Making people's lives safer, ending wars, and preventing new wars from starting or re-starting requires a joint effort. To achieve these objectives we work closely with other parts of the UK Government including the FCO and MOD. For example, in Sierra Leone, major DFID, FCO, and MOD investments have built the capacity of the armed forces, police and other bodies to deliver security on the ground. Further information on DFID's security sector reform strategy is available on the DFID website:

http://www.dfid.gov.uk/Pubs/files/supportingsecurity.pdf

Sub-Saharan Africa: Malaria

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development with reference to the answer of 21 May 2008, *Official Report,* column 328W, on Africa: malaria, from which budgets the £90 million has been drawn; and how much of it has been spent to date. [266271]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The costs of supplying 20 million bed nets for Africa, which we estimated at some £90 million, are being drawn from our country programme budget allocations for the period 2008-09 to 2010-11. We will be able to give a figure for the amount spent so far once the accounts for the current financial year 2008-09 are finalised.

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for East Londonderry of 26 January 2009, *Official Report*, column 66W, on sub-Saharan Africa: malaria, when work began on the programme to supply 20 million bed nets. [266272]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The pledge to provide 20 million bed nets for Africa was made by the Prime Minister on 9 April 2008. Follow-up action to deliver against the pledge commenced immediately.

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for East Londonderry, of 26 January 2009, *Official Report,* column 66W, on sub-Saharan Africa: malaria, what the average *(a)* price and *(b)* distribution cost of a bed net is (i) in total and (ii) by country. [266273]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: As set out in my answer of 21 May 2008, *Official Report,* column 328W, we estimated a typical average price for a bed net of £2.50, with additional cost for administration, delivery and distribution of

£2 per net. On this basis, it was estimated that it would cost £90 million to deliver the Prime Minister's pledge to provide 20 million additional bed nets for Africa during the period 2008-11. This estimate is close to the £5 total costs per bed net quoted during the recent Comic Relief appeal. However, costs vary depending on the delivery agent and the quantities being ordered: for example, UNICEF, which buys a very large number of bed nets globally, can command very favourable prices.

It will not be possible to calculate the costs in every African country concerned until all of the various programmes through which bed nets are being supplied have been fully costed and approved. However, an example where figures are available is Nigeria, where we are funding the supply of 2.5 million bed nets through the Malaria Consortium. In this case, each bed net costs US$4.46 to buy and ship, with distribution and associated costs of US$1.40 per unit, totalling US$5.86 (about £4 at current exchange rates).

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development with reference to the answer of 5 June 2008, *Official Report*, columns 1130-32W, on overseas aid, how many bed nets have been procured by each of his Department's country programmes since June 2008. [266274]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The Department for International Development is in the process of compiling this information and will make it public in the next few weeks.

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for East Londonderry of 26 January 2009, *Official Report*, column 66W, on sub-Saharan Africa: malaria, what the level of demand for bed nets is *(a)* in each African country and *(b)* in each country to which bed nets are being supplied by his Department's country programmes. [266275]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: Data on the levels of demand for bed nets are not available by country. The World Malaria Report, issued by the World Health Organisation in September 2008—which is available at:

http://www.who.int/malaria/wmr2008/malaria2008.pdf

includes detailed data on the levels of bed net ownership and use worldwide. Demand for bed nets is very dependent on the level of knowledge about malaria that prevails in a community, often something that can be encouraged through health education programmes. People in malarial areas need to be informed about the benefits of using bed nets before increased demand develops.

There is a huge need for bed nets across Africa. In 2006, an average of 27 per cent. of African households owned an insecticide treated bed net, but only 17 per cent. of children slept under one. Where malaria is endemic, it is important for all children to sleep under a net. There is wide variation among countries however; around 49 per cent. of children sleep under a net in Gambia whereas in Kenya coverage has, with our help, increased from 7 per cent. in 2004 to 67 per cent. of children in 2006. It is intended that our various programmes that supply bed nets, and similar programmes by national governments and by other donors and NGOs, will considerably increase the availability and usage of bed nets with the aim of making a positive impact on the incidence of malaria in Africa over the next few years.

WOMEN AND EQUALITY

Opinion Leader Research

Mr. Baron: To ask the Minister for Women and Equality how much the Government Equalities Office has paid to Opinion Leader Research in each year since its establishment. [266000]

Ms Harman: The Government Equalities Office was established on 12 October 2007. Since then, no payments have been made to Opinion Leader Research.

SOLICITOR-GENERAL

Corporal Punishment: Mosques

Mark Pritchard: To ask the Solicitor-General how many complaints were received by the Crown Prosecution Service alleging corporal punishment in mosques in England and Wales in 2008. [262891]

The Solicitor-General: CPS records allocate each defendant prosecuted by the service to one of 12 categories indicating the principal offence with which the defendant was charged, including a category identifying proceedings for Offences Against the Person. However, CPS records include no additional detail identifying either the circumstances or the motivation for the offence. To obtain this information, by reference to individual case files, would incur disproportionate cost (Code of Practice on Access to Government Information, part 2, clause 9).

Domestic Violence: Cumbria

Mr. Jamie Reed: To ask the Solicitor-General how many successful prosecutions for offences related to domestic violence in *(a)* Cumbria and *(b)* Copeland constituency there have been in each year since 1997; and in how many such cases (i) alcohol was an aggravating factor and (ii) the victim required hospital treatment. [263426]

The Solicitor-General: The Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) only holds complete and reliable data on proceedings for domestic violence from 2005 onwards. The following table shows the number of defendants prosecuted by CPS Cumbria for offences of domestic violence, together with the outcome of proceedings. Outcomes are divided into convictions, including guilty pleas as well as convictions after trial, and unsuccessful outcomes, comprising all outcomes other than a conviction.

No discrete records are held for Copeland constituency. Figures relating to this area are included within those for the Workington Police Division, for which comparable figures are included in the following table.

CPS records include no information showing whether alcohol was an aggravating factor, or whether a victim required hospital treatment. To obtain this information, by reference to individual case files, would incur disproportionate cost (Code of Practice on Access to Government Information, part 2, clause 9).

	Convictions		*Unsuccessful*		
	Number	*Percentage*	*Number*	*Percentage*	*Total*
CPS Cumbria					
2005	296	61.3	187	38.7	483
2006	329	66.3	167	33.7	496
2007	390	77.5	113	22.5	503
2008	526	77.5	153	22.5	679
Workington					
2005	79	56.8	60	43.2	139
2006	80	63.5	46	36.5	126
2007	85	81.7	19	18.3	104
2008	165	68.8	75	31.3	240

Domestic Violence: Hampshire

Sandra Gidley: To ask the Solicitor-General how many *(a)* arrests, *(b)* prosecutions and *(c)* convictions for acts of domestic violence there were in (i) the Test Valley Borough, (ii) Southampton and (iii) the ceremonial county of Hampshire in each of the last 10 years; and what proportion of the offences were (A) males assaulting females, (B) females assaulting males, (C) males assaulting males and (D) females assaulting females. [264916]

The Solicitor-General: The following table shows, from the Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) records, the number of prosecutions for domestic violence completed in Southampton district and the county of Hampshire, during the period for which complete data are available. The table also shows case outcomes, divided into convictions and unsuccessful outcomes, and includes separate figures for male and for female defendants. Figures for the Southampton district include the Hampshire South West district. The Test Valley borough falls under several units within CPS Hampshire and Isle of Wight, and no discrete figures are held for the borough alone. Although the CPS has in place arrangements to capture the gender of victims of offences of domestic violence, the information remains under development, and insufficient complete data exist at present to answer the remainder of the question.

The information requested on arrests is not collected centrally.

The arrests collection held by the Home Office covers arrests for recorded crime (notifiable offences) only, broken down at a main offence group level, covering categories such as violence against the person and robbery.

From these centrally reported data we are not able to identify specific offences from within the main offence groups.

	Convictions		*Unsuccessful*		
	Volume	*Percentage*	*Volume*	*Percentage*	*Total outcomes*
Southampton					
2005	262	63	151	37	413
2006	376	64	207	36	583
2007	511	69	234	31	745
2008	490	63	289	37	779
Southampton male defendant					
2005	256	64	142	36	398
2006	362	65	197	35	559
2007	487	69	219	31	706
2008	450	62	271	38	721
Southampton female defendant					
2005	8	47	9	53	17
2006	14	58	10	42	24
2007	24	62	15	38	39
2008	40	69	18	31	58
Hampshire					
2005	835	61	540	39	1,375
2006	1,158	68	543	32	1,701
2007	1,558	69	713	31	2,271
2008	1,647	69	750	31	2,397
Hampshire male defendant					
2005	797	61	511	39	1,308
2006	1,110	68	516	32	1,626
2007	1,462	69	663	31	2,125
2008	1,528	68	703	32	2,231
Hampshire female defendant					
2005	38	57	29	43	67
2006	48	64	27	36	75
2007	95	66	50	34	145
2008	119	72	47	28	166

Gary McKinnon

Chris Huhne: To ask the Solicitor-General what her most recent estimate is of the cost to the Crown Prosecution Service of the extradition case against Gary McKinnon. [264680]

The Solicitor-General: The Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) does not routinely ascertain the total cost of proceedings in individual cases. The costs in counsel's fees to the CPS of the extradition proceedings involving Gary McKinnon are £41,851.47.

Opinion Leader Research

Mr. Baron: To ask the Solicitor-General how much the Law Officers' Departments have paid Opinion Leader Research in each financial year since 2003-04. [265998]

The Solicitor-General: The Law Officers' Departments have made no payments to Opinion Leader Research since 2003-04.

DEFENCE

Afghanistan: Peacekeeping Operations

Dr. Murrison: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many snatch land rovers were deployed in Helmand province in each month since 2001; and if he will make a statement. [265971]

Mr. Hutton: I am withholding the information as its disclosure would, or would be likely to prejudice the capability, effectiveness or security of the armed forces.

Armed Forces: Recruitment

Bob Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many former members of each of the armed forces re-enlisted in each of the last five years for which figures are available. [265898]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The table provides the number of personnel re-enlisted to the UK Regular Forces[1] by Service in each of the last five financial years.

	Naval Service[2]	*Army*[3]	*Royal Air Force*
2003-04	n/a	540	90
2004-05	n/a	400	40
2005-06	n/a	410	20
2006-07[4]	n/a	640	n/a
2007-08[4]	n/a	n/a	n/a

n/a = Not available

[1] UK Regular Forces include Nursing Services and exclude Full Time Reserve Service personnel, Gurkhas and mobilised reservists.

[2] Naval Service data cannot be provided because although some re-entrants are logged on the system it is thought this is only part of the re-entrant population.

[3] Financial year 2006-07 is for an 11 month period from 1 April 2006 to 28 February 2007.

[4] Post JPA implementation (RAF from 1 April 2006, Naval Service from 1 October 2006 and Army from 1 April 2007) information on the number of re-enlisted personnel is unavailable.

Note:

Figures have been rounded to 10; numbers ending in "5" have been rounded to the nearest multiple of 20 to prevent systematic bias.

Armed Forces: Training

Mrs. Humble: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many trainees completed the Military Annual Training Test 7 in each of the last three years; what the pass rate was in each year; what work is carried out in order to determine the choice of question and effectiveness of training in each subject area; and if he will place in the Library a copy of the most recent version of the test. [259883]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: Military Annual Training Test 7 (MATT 7)—Operational Law—was created and implemented as mandatory for all officers and soldiers on 1 August 2008. Prior to that, Operational Law was taught within MATT 6.

There are hundreds of courses available to Army trainees, which vary in length from a few days to many months and which have varying requirements for encompassing MATT 7.

During phase one training the Law of Armed Conflict is taught and tested, although there is no requirement for trainees at this stage to complete MATT 7.

Phase two training varies in length and content between each of the Arms and Services; as a result, the requirement for them to undertake operational law training also varies. For those phase two trainees whose course is less than six months in length, MATT 7 is not mandated. For those on a phase two course which will last more than six months, MATT 7 is mandated.

At 2 March 2009 5,077 trainees were recorded as having completed MATT 7. Officers and soldiers of the Field Army are required to pass MATT 7 annually and it is routinely completed during pre-deployment training. Validation of the training is carried out by the Army's Directorate of Training ensuring standards are maintained across the Army.

I have placed a copy of the latest version of the test in the Library of the House.

Armed Forces: Working Hours

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the average working hours for personnel in each service have been in each year since 2005. [265139]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The information requested is not held centrally. However Defence Analytical Services and Advice (DASA) carry out a continuous survey of working patterns which is used to provide estimates of the average weekly hours worked over a financial year.

Copies of the continuous survey of working patterns reports from 1997-98 to 2006-07 are available in the Library of the House.

The 2006-07 continuous survey of working patterns report includes estimates of average weekly hours worked by Service. A five year time series of these estimates is provided on page 4 of this report.

The 2007-08 report will be placed in the Library of the House shortly.

AWE Burghfield: Planning Permission

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Lewes of 26 June 2008, *Official Report*, column 337W, on AWE Burghfield: planning permission, on what dates he expects to submit planning applications for the proposed Enriched Uranium Facility and Hydrodynamics Facility at AWE Aldermaston to the local planning authority. [265155]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The latest forecast date for the submission of the planning application for the proposed replacement Uranium Handling Facility is the fourth quarter of 2009. The date for the proposed Hydrodynamics Facility is mid-2010.

Defence: Equipment

Dr. Murrison: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what financial value is ascribed to *(a)* a soldier's life and *(b)* general troop safety in undertaking economic analysis to appraise (i) new defence equipment and (ii) upgrading of existing defence equipment; and if he will make a statement. [265972]

Mr. Hutton: I refer the hon. Member to the answer that my hon. Friend the Member for Grantham and Stamford the Under-Secretary of State for Defence, (Mr. Davies) gave on 13 January 2009, *Official Report*, columns 557-58W.

Departmental ICT

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many departmental *(a)* computers, *(b)* laptops and *(c)* memory sticks were lost in each year since 2007; and what the value of such equipment was. [265408]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The following table provides the number of computers, laptops and USB sticks that have been reported as lost in each year since 2007 until 18 March 2009. An estimated asset replacement cost has been used to derive the value for the losses as the actual recorded value could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

A number of the lost items have subsequently been recovered and these are reflected in the table.

MOD Asset Lost	*2007*	*2008*	*2009*	*Total (number subsequently recovered)*	*Assumed value per asset (£)*	*Total value of lost assets (£)*	*Net value of assets (i.e. minus recovered items (£)*
Computers	2	38	2	42(1)	1,200	50,400	49,200
Laptops	22	201	5	228(22)	1,800	410,400	370,800
USBs	8	91	7	106(15)	15	1,590	1,365

The figure for 2008 includes the result from a Department wide audit of assets and may include items lost or unaccounted for during many previous years. These figures continue to be revised in light of any notified additional losses or, later, more accurate clarification of incident details.

The Ministry of Defence is alert to the vulnerabilities of computer, laptop and USB assets and therefore information security policies and procedures are being continually reviewed and revised to drive down the number of information assets lost and to mitigate any subsequent impact.

Departmental Public Expenditure

Mr. Gerald Howarth: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will break down his Department's Spring Supplementary Estimates 2009-10 on the same basis as in the answer of 14 July 2008 to the hon. Member for Aldershot, *Official Report*, column 167W, on departmental public expenditure. [259452]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: I will write to the hon. Member and place a copy of my letter in the Library of the House.

Substantive answer from Bob Ainsworth to Gerald Howarth:

I undertook to write to the hon. Member in answer to his Parliamentary Question on 2 March 2009, *Official Report*, column 1366W about the Department's Spring Supplementary Estimates for 2009-10.

A copy of the tables, which provide a detailed breakdown of the Department's Spring Supplementary Estimates 2008-09, which I have interpreted as being the appropriate year, and a copy of my letter have been placed in the Library of the House.

Military Aircraft

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many fast jet aircraft of each type there are in *(a)* the Royal Air Force and *(b)* the forward fleet; and how many are fit for purpose. [265141]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The numbers of fast jet aircraft in the RAF, forward fleet and those fit for purpose are provided in the table. The figures shown are a snapshot of the position on 28 February 2009.

Aircraft type	*Total fleet*	*Forward fleet*	*Fit for purpose*
Typhoon	53	35	20
Tornado GR4	138	81	61
Tornado F3	69	35	26
Harrier	74	49	44
Hawk T1	132	80	68
Hawk T2	6	0	0

The number of aircraft in the forward fleet comprises aircraft which are serviceable and those which are short-term unserviceable. Short-term unserviceable aircraft are undergoing minor works, forward maintenance or any other unforeseen rectification work that can arise on a day-to-day basis. Serviceable aircraft available to the front line commands for operational and training purposes are termed fit for purpose. Aircraft which are undergoing major servicing or routine maintenance are within the depth fleet and are therefore not relevant to this question.

Although delivery of six Hawk T2 has been accepted they have not yet been released to service.

Military Exercises

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many military exercises were cancelled in *(a)* 2007 and *(b)* 2008; and what the reasons were for cancelling each exercise. [264957]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The military exercises cancelled each year since 2004-05 are summarised at table 2 on page 54 of the MOD annual report and accounts 2007-08 (volume 1). The reasons for cancellation are various and include: effectiveness of delivery; value for money constraints; international policy dimensions and circumstances; operational constraints; and focus on current operations. Copies of the report are available in the Library of the House.

During calendar year 2007, a total of 722 training events were scheduled in the Defence Exercise programme (DXP), of which 61 (8.4 per cent.) were cancelled. Of these cancellations, 16 were due to operational commitments, 36 due to changing priorities and the remaining nine were for other reasons.

During calendar year 2008, a total of 584 training events were scheduled in the DXP of which 58 (9.9 per cent.) were cancelled. Of these cancellations, four were due to operational commitments, 20 due to changing priorities and the remaining 34 were for other reasons.

Ser	*Exercise name*	*Start*	*End*	*Reason for cancellation*
1	Cyprus Forum 06	1 February 2007	30 April 2007	Changed priorities
2	Readiness Challenge 06/07	1 March 2007	1 April 2007	Operational commitments
3	Global Gold 07/08	19 March 2007	30 March 2007	Operational commitments
4	Bald Eagle 07/08	1 April 2007	14 April 2007	No unit available
5	Britannia Way/Iberian Focus 07/08	1 April 2007	14 April 2007	Changed priorities
6	Cossack Steppe (CAC 5-07/08)	1 April 2007	1 July 2007	Operational commitments
7	Lion Star 1 07/08	1 April 2007	14 April 2007	Changed priorities
8	Maneval 07	11 April 2007	13 May 2007	Operational commitments
9	Lion Sun 1-07/08	18 April 2007	16 May 2007	Changed priorities
10	Lion Sun 2-07/08	25 April 2007	23 May 2007	Changed priorities
11	Bass Rock 07/08	1 May 2007	15 May 2007	Host nation cancelled
12	Fingals Cave 07/08	1 May 2007	1 October 2007	Host nation cancelled
13	Joint Venture 07	1 May 2007	31 May 2007	Changed priorities
14	Romanian Express (CAC 7-07/08)	1 May 2007	1 October 2007	Cancelled due to double booking on training area
15	Steadfast Nerve 07	2 May 2007	11 May 2007	Cancelled by NATO
16	Lion Star 2-07/08	7 May 2007	21 May 2007	Changed priorities
17	Trident Fury 07	7 May 2007	18 May 2007	Operational commitments
18	Virtual Flag 07-3	7 May 2007	18 May 2007	Host nation cancelled
19	Maple Flag 40-1	11 May 2007	25 May 2007	Host nation cancelled
20	Lion Star 3-07/08	19 May 2007	2 June 2007	Changed priorities
21	Dragons Nest 07	21 May 2007	27 May 2007	Changed priorities
22	Fr Airex-1 07	21 May 2007	30 May 2007	Changed priorities
23	Lion Sun 3 - 07/08	30 May 2007	27 June 2007	Changed priorities
24	Fac(A) Trg 07	1 June 2007	14 June 2007	Changed priorities
25	Fwit07	2 June 2007	15 June 2007	Changed priorities
26	Lion Star 4- 07/08	2 June 2007	16 June 2007	Changed priorities
27	Coop Archer 07	11 June 2007	22 June 2007	Operational commitments
28	Maple Flag 40-3	11 June 2007	22 June 2007	Operational commitments
29	Volcanex 07	13 June 2007	22 June 2007	Changed priorities
30	Lion Sun 4- 07/08	20 June 2007	18 July 2007	Changed priorities
31	Lion Sun 5- 07/08	27 June 2007	25 July 2007	Changed priorities
32	Harding Flame 07-1	29 June 2007	13 July 2007	Operational commitments
33	Flying Rose 2-07/08	1 July 2007	31 July 2007	Operational commitments
34	Ecadex 07	2 July 2007	10 July 2007	Changed priorities
35	Patriot 07	9 July 2007	22 July 2007	Changed priorities
36	Templar Forge 07-3	13 July 2007	30 July07	Operational commitments
37	JTFEX 07	15 July 2007	25 July 2007	Changed priorities
38	Lion Sun 6- 07/08	18 July 2007	15 August 2007	Changed priorities
39	Lion Sun 7- 07/08	25 July 2007	8 August 2007	Changed priorities
40	Lone Victor 07	3 August 2007	10 August 2007	Changed priorities
41	TLP 07-4	6 August 2007	31 August 2007	Host nation cancelled
42	Jagged Flame 07-1	13 August 2007	26 August 2007	Changed priorities
43	Lion Sun 8- 07/08	15 August 2007	12 September 2007	Changed priorities
44	Batus Run 07-1	20 August 2007	8 September 2007	Changed priorities
45	Lion Sun 9- 07/08	22 August 2007	19 September 2007	Changed priorities
46	1 ACC WTI 07	1 September 2007	23 September 2007	Operational commitments
47	Coop Mako 07	1 September 2007	14 September 2007	Changed priorities
48	Bold Avenger 07	3 September 2007	14 September 2007	Changed priorities
49	Opeval 07	5 September 2007	6 October 2007	Operational commitments
50	JRTC 07-1	9 September 2007	17 September 2007	Operational commitments
51	CME/CMX 07	11 September 2007	21 September 2007	Cancelled by EU and NATO
52	Lion Sun 10-07/08	12 September 2007	10 October 2007	Changed priorities
53	Harding Flame 07-2	17 September 2007	28 September 2007	Operational commitments
54	Lion Sun 11-07/08	19 September 2007	17 October 2007	Changed priorities
55	Uhlan Barbara 07	1 October 2007	7 October 2007	Changed priorities
56	Cobb Ring 07/08	14 October 2007	29 October 2007	Operational commitments
57	Lone Frame 07	15 October 2007	28 October 2007	Changed priorities
58	Grand Prix 2- 07/08	26 October 2007	16 December 2007	Changed priorities
59	Able Ally 07/08	1 November 2007	30 November 2007	Changed priorities

Ser	*Exercise name*	*Start*	*End*	*Reason for cancellation*
60	Dapex 07	19 November 2007	23 November 207	Changed priorities
61	Global Kukri 07/08	19 November 2007	30 November 2007	Operational commitments
62	Lion Sun 12-07/08	1 January 2008	29 February 2008	Changed priorities
63	Lion Sun 13-07/08	1 January 2008	29 February 2008	Changed priorities
64	Snow Falcon 08	10 January 2008	25 January 2008	Changed priorities
65	Red Flag 08-2.1	13 January 2008	26 January 2008	Alternative exercise opportunity pursued
66	Oak Apple	24 January 2008	5 April 2008	Kenyan domestic instability
67	Grand Prix 3-07/08	28 January 2008	20 March 2008	Kenyan domestic instability
68	Lion Sun 14-07/08	1 February 2008	31 March 2008	Changed priorities
69	Red Flag 08-2.2	2 February 2008	15 February 2008	Alternative exercise opportunity pursued
70	Noble Midas	4 February 2008	16 February 2008	Airframe availability
71	Green Flag West 08-4	20 February 2008	7 March 2008	Alternative exercise opportunity pursued
72	Lone Fin 08	5 March 2008	16 March 2008	Changed priorities
73	Grand Prix 1-08/09	10 March 2008	26 April 2008	Kenyan domestic instability
74	Spontex 08-1	12 March 2008	23 March 2008	No aircraft availability
75	Makran Osprey	31 March 2008	11 April 2008	Political instability in Pakistan forced withdrawal of the AIR component and made the Ex untenable
76	Bald Eagle 08/09	1 April 2008	1 May 2008	No unit available
77	Lion Sun 1-08/09	18 April 2008	16 May 2008	Changed priorities
78	Sphinx	21 April 2008	30 April 2008	No AAR available
79	Lion Sun 2-08/09	25 April 2008	23 May 2008	Changed priorities
80	Bass Rock 08/09	1 May 2008	1 October 2008	Exchange. Cancelled at Canadian request
81	Fingals Cave 08/09	1 May 2008	1 October 2008	Exchange. Cancelled at Canadian request
82	Flying Rose 2-08/09	1 May 2008	1 October 2008	Exchange. Cancelled at US request.
83	Mulberry Tree/Prickly Pear 08/09	1 May 2008	1 October 2008	Exchange with US. Cancelled by mutual agreement due to lack of available forces on either side.
84	Stoney Run 08/09	1 May 2008	1 October 2008	Exchange exercise—UK leg went ahead but US leg cancelled due to unavailability of AT.
85	Winged Star 08/09	1 May 2008	1 October 2008	Airborne focused exchange. Neither UK nor US airborne forces available due to operations.
86	Lion Sun 3-08/09	30 May 2008	27 June 2008	Changed priorities
87	150 Tpt Regt (V) OBUA Trg	31 May 2008	1 June 2008	TRG area unavailable
88	Frukus	1 June 2008	20 June 2008	Russia/Georgia dispute resulted in cancellation
89	Blue Flag	2 June 2008	13 June 2008	Cancelled by host nation (USA)
90	Elite	2 June 2008	10 June 2008	Changed priorities
91	Loyal Arrow	16 June 2008	27 June 2008	Ex cancelled by NATO
92	Coop Mako 08	19 June 2008	30 June 2008	Cancelled by sponsor
93	Lion Sun 4-08/09	20 June 2008	18 July 2008	Changed priorities
94	Butus Run	23 June 2008	29 June 2008	Change to dates prevented Air participation
95	Lion Sun 5-08/09	27 June 2008	25 July 2008	Changed priorities
96	Uhlan Eagle 08/09	1 July 2008	30 July 2008	Re-programming removed need For exercise
97	Training Weekend 150 Tpt Regt(V)	14 July 2008	15 June 2008	Training area unavailable
98	First Jog	15 July 2008	17 July 2008	Exercise Objectives reached in an earlier exercise
99	Lion Sun 6-08/09	18 July 2008	15 August 2008	Changed priorities
100	Lion Sun 7-08/09	25 July 2008	22 August 2008	Changed priorities
101	Lion Sun 8-08/09	15 August 2008	12 September 2008	Changed priorities
102	Lion Sun 9-08/09	22 August 2008	19 September 2008	Changed priorities
103	Outreach 4-Georgian Express	1 September 2008	1 October 2008	Russian-Georgian hostilities
104	Slovak Hawk	1 September 2008	8 September 2008	Changed priorities
105	Tricolour 3-08/09	1 September 2008	1 October 2008	No unit available
106	Danex 08	3 September 2008	16 September 2008	Cancelled by host nation
107	Lion Sun 10-08/09	12 September 2008	10 October 2008	Changed priorities
108	Lion Sun 11-08/09	19 September 2008	17 October 2008	Changed priorities
109	Log Provider 08	22 September 2008	3 October 2008	Operational commitments
110	Sapper Sands	29 September 2008	10 October 2008	Unit unavailable
111	Lone Buzzard	10 October 2008	19 October 2008	Changed priorities
112	TrgEx-75EngrRegt(V)	11 October 2008	12 October 2008	Operational commitments
113	Lone Frame	15 October 2008	27 October 2008	Changed priorities
114	Noble Ardent	16 October 2008	30 October 2008	Cancelled by national owner
115	Trg Ex - 75 Engr Regt(V)	25 October 2008	26 October 2008	Operational commitments
116	Trg Ex - 75 Engr Regt (V)	30 October 2008	31 October 2008	Operational commitments
117	Uhlan Barbara 08/09	1 November 2008	25 November 2008	Re-programming removed need for exercise
118	Polish Dancer	3 November 2008	14 November 2008	Cancelled by host nation—bad weather
119	Flotex Silver	24 November 2008	5 December 2008	Host nation reduced scale of Ex to National only, cancelling INVITEX component.

Nuclear Weapons

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether the United Kingdom has ever provided tritium for the United States nuclear weapons programme. [258419]

Mr. Hutton: The Government set in hand in their 1998 Strategic Defence Review a process of declassification and historical accounting of defence fissile material production since the start of the United Kingdom's defence nuclear programme in the 1940s. In 2000 they produced a report dealing with plutonium. In that report an explanation was given of the bartering arrangements provided for in the UK/US Mutual Defence Agreement under which the UK received 6.7 kg of tritium from the US between 1960 and 1979 in exchange for plutonium.

I am withholding further information on the movement of tritium or other fissile material between the United Kingdom and the United States in the interests of national security.

Piracy

Mr. Ancram: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what recent military actions have been undertaken by the Royal Navy against piracy in *(a)* the Red Sea, *(b)* the Gulf of Aden and *(c)* the Indian Ocean; and what the result has been of such actions. [261309]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The Royal Navy has been involved in two incidents involving military action against piracy since December 2008. Both incidents were in the Gulf of Aden.

On 29 January 2009 HMS Portland dispatched her helicopter to offer assistance when the Indian Naval vessel INS Beas responded to a pirate boarding of MV Longchamp. Despite action taken by the helicopter from INS Beas the pirates were successful in their attempt to hijack the MV Longchamp.

On 22 February 2009 HMS Northumberland responded to a distress call from MV Saldanha. Due to the distances involved HMS Northumberland was not able to deter the pirate attack. However, she did later find an abandoned skiff thought to have been used during the attack. The skiff was subsequently destroyed.

I refer the right hon. and learned Member to the answer that the Under-Secretary of State for Defence, my hon. Friend the Member for North Durham (Mr. Jones) gave on 20 November 2008, *Official Report*, column 670W, to the hon. Member for Woodspring (Dr. Fox) which provides details of the number of incidents in late 2008.

Reserve Forces

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the *(a)* inflow, *(b)* outflow and *(c)* voluntary outflow rate of each volunteer reserve force was in each year since 2001. [265410]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: Data on outflow reasons for any volunteer reserve force are not held. Consequently, data on voluntary outflow are not available.

Royal Naval Reserve figures prior to 2003 are not available. The following table provides the total intake and outflow for the Royal Naval Reserve during the period 1 January 2003 to 31 December 2008.

Calendar year	*Inflow*	*Outflow*
2003	340	540
2004	220	570
2005	240	420
2006	240	380
2007	220	300
2008	180	270

Royal Marine Reserve figures prior to April 2007 and post 1 March 2008 are not available. The following table provides the total intake and outflow for the Royal Marine Reserve during the period 1 April 2007 to 29 February 2008.

	Inflow	*Outflow*
April 2007 to February 2008	300	240

Territorial Army inflow and outflow figures prior to October 2003 are not available. Following the implementation of the Joint Personnel Administration system in 2007, inflow and outflow figures for the Territorial Army are not available. The following table provides the total intake and outflow for Territorial Army personnel during the period 1 October 2003 to 28 February 2007.

Inflow and outflow of the Territorial Army[1] by calendar year

Calendar year	*Inflow[2]*	*Outflow[3]*
2003 (1 October to 31 December)	3,360	2,370
2004	7,690	9,410
2005	8,650	8,240
2006	8,560	9,920
2007 (1 January to 28 February)[4]	1,020	1,700

[1] The data exclude Full Time Reserve Service (FTRS), Non-Regular Permanent Staff (NRPS) and Mobilised TA but include the Officer Training Corps (OTC).
[2] Inflow figures include all inflow e.g. intake from civil life and intake from other parts of the armed forces, but do not include the inflow of personnel returning from mobilisation.
[3] Outflow figures exclude those personnel who became mobilised.
[4] Due to ongoing data validation following the introduction of the new joint personnel (JPA) System, there is no TA information available since 1 March 2007.

Royal Auxiliary Air Force figures prior to the financial year 2002-03 are not available. The following table shows total attestations and discharges in the Royal Auxiliary Air Force for the period 1 April 2002 to 28 February 2009.

Financial year	*Inflow*	*Outflow*
2002-03	280	330
2003-04	260	280
2004-05	260	340
2005-06	240	270
2006-07	320	280

Financial year	*Inflow*	*Outflow*
2007-08	340	290
1 April 2008 to 28 February 2009	430	290

Notes:
1. The data include Part Time Volunteer Reserves (PTVR) only.
2. Inflow figures include all inflow including intake from civil life and transfers from other units within the armed forces.
3. Outflow figures include all outflow including discharges and transfers out.

Trident

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what estimate he has made of the percentage of the defence budget which will be spent on running costs of the current Trident nuclear deterrent and the procurement of a successor system in the years immediately following the main gate decision to procure new submarines. [264963]

Mr. Hutton: As the December 2006 White Paper, "The Future of the UK's Nuclear Deterrent" (Cm 6994), made clear, our current estimate is that the total procurement costs of the new submarines and associated equipment and infrastructure will be in the region of £15 to 20 billion (at 2006-07 prices) for a four-boat fleet, mainly spread over the period 2012-27. The Main Gate decision is expected to be taken in 2014.

Spending plans for the years immediately following this decision will need to be set as part of the Government's Spending Review process and as part of the Main Gate approval. It is not therefore possible to be sure what the size of the defence budget will be over the timescales involved, but procurement costs are likely on average to be the equivalent of around three per cent. annually of the current defence budget over the main period of expenditure. This is around the same as for the Trident programme.

Once the new fleet of submarines comes into service, annual in-service capital and running costs of the deterrent, which include the costs of the Atomic Weapons Establishment, are expected to be similar to today (around five to six per cent. of the annual defence budget).

DUCHY OF LANCASTER

Charities: Insolvency

Grant Shapps: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster (1) how many charities were deemed to be insolvent in each of the last five years; [265253]

(2) how many charities have made representations to the Charities Commission on issues related to insolvency in each of the last three years. [265254]

Kevin Brennan: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the Charity Commission. I have asked the Commission to reply.

Letter from Andrew Hind, dated March 2009:

As the Chief Executive of the Charity Commission, I have been asked to respond to your written Parliamentary Questions (265253), (265254) regarding charity insolvencies.

With regard to how many charities were deemed to be insolvent in each of the last five years, the Charity Commission does not currently record this information centrally. However, I attach below tables which set out the number of charities who were removed from the register, in each year, since 2005 and the reasons recorded for their removal.

The table below to those charities which are required to refers register with the Commission by law. Smaller charities are not required to register with us; the threshold for registration was an annual income of £1,000 for the periods shown by the tables.

Of the charities that have been removed from the Register, those that have been removed due to insolvency are likely to have fallen under the categories "Ceased to exist" and "Does not operate". However the large majority of the charities recorded under these categories will not have been removed due to insolvency but will have wound up for other reasons.

Reason for removal	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*	*Total*
Ceased to exist or operate due to merger, incorporation or transfer of funds	1,592	1,725	1,436	4,753
Ceased to exist or operate for other reasons	3,344	2,691	3,270	9,305
Voluntary removal of charities below the minimum registration threshold	28	8	245	281
Duplicate registrations and other corrections	174	152	122	448
Total	5,138	4,576	5,073	14,787

With regard to how many charities have made representations to the Charity Commission on issues related to insolvency in each of the last three years, the Charity Commission does not currently collect this information centrally.

I hope this is helpful. If you would be interested in meeting representatives from the Charity Commission to discuss these issues further please do get in touch.

Departmental Electricity Generation

Simon Hughes: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how much has been spent by his Department on *(a)* capital expenditure and *(b)* maintenance and running costs for standby diesel generators for backup electricity on the departmental estate in each year since March 1997. [264091]

Kevin Brennan: The information requested is not held centrally and can be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Government Departments: Temporary Employment

John McDonnell: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how many temporary agency workers there were in each Government department on *(a)* 1 November 2008 and *(b)* the latest date for which information is available. [266164]

Kevin Brennan: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated March 2009:

As National Statistician I have been asked to reply to your recent Parliamentary Question concerning how many temporary agency workers there were in each Government department on (a) 1 November 2008 and (b) the latest date for which information is available. (266164)

Estimates of employment for the home civil service departments are available from the Civil Service element of the Quarterly Public Sector Employment Survey (QPSES). Data for the survey is collected on a quarterly basis; the latest date for which information is available is December 2008. Data for the numbers of temporary 'agency' workers are not collected; however estimates of the number of temporary/casual employees are available and have been included at Annex A.

Annex A: Civil Service employment by Department[1]—temporary/casual employees

		Headcount
	2008 Q3[2]	2008 Q4[3]
Attorney-General's departments	440	470
Cabinet Office	20	20
Other Cabinet Office agencies	120	80
HM Treasury	120	90
Chancellor's other department[4, 5]	110	150
United Kingdom Statistics Authority[4, 5, 6]	70	80
Charity Commission	10	10
Communities and Local Government	50	70
Culture, Media and Sport	10	*
Defence	840	740
Children, Schools and Families	20	20
Innovation, Universities and Skills	10	10
Ofsted	90	80
Environment, Food and Rural Affairs	260	280
Export Credits Guarantee Department	*	10
Foreign and Commonwealth Office	30	30
Health	60	70
Food Standards Agency	30	30
Meat Hygiene Service	10	20
HM Revenue and Customs	290	130
Home Office[4]	380	230
International Development	10	10
Justice	2,330	2,220
Northern Ireland Office	0	0
Security and Intelligence Services	0	0
Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform	280	290
Transport	610	360
Work and Pensions	2,940	2,980
Government Equalities Office[7]	0	10
Central Government Departments total	9,120	8,470
Scottish Government	350	300
Welsh Assembly	390	350
Total	9,870	9,120

[1] Numbers are rounded to the nearest 10, and numbers less than five are represented by "*". Data not available are represented by '—'.
[2] 2008 G3 survey reference date 30 September 2008.
[3] 2008 Q4 survey reference date 31 December 2008.
[4] On 1 April 2008 employees of the General Register Office were transferred from the UK Statistics Authority to the Identity and Passport Service (Home Office).
[5] The UK Statistics Authority was established on 1 April 2008, when the 'Statistics and Registration Service Act 2007' came into effect. As such, Office for National Statistics employees are now included within the UK Statistics Authority return and not as 'Chancellor's other departments'.
[6] As of 1 April 2008, Field Interviewers are now classified as civil servants and are included as UK Statistics Authority employees.
[7] The Government Equalities Office (GEO) was created by Parliament in October 2007 and obtained its own payroll for collection in December 2008.

Personal Income: Coastal Areas

Chris Ruane: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what the average weekly income was in each ward in each principal seaside town in *(a)* England and *(b)* Wales in the last month for which figures are available, listed in descending order in each case. [265495]

Kevin Brennan: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated 24 March 2009:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your recent Parliamentary Question asking what the average income was in each ward in each principal seaside town in England and Wales in the last month for which figures are available, listed in descending order with Welsh seaside town clusters disaggregated. (265495)

Estimates of average income are not available at ward level. However, it is possible to provide estimates of gross weekly earnings at Local Authority level. These are estimated from the Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings (ASHE), and are provided for all full-time employees on adult rates of pay whose pay for the survey period was not affected by absence.

I attach a table showing the median gross weekly earnings for full-time employees for the Local Authority associated with each principal seaside town in England and Wales in 2008.

The ASHE, carried out in April each year, is the most comprehensive source of earnings information in the United Kingdom. It is a sample of employees who are members of pay-as-you-earn (PAYE) schemes.

Median weekly pay—Gross (£)—For full-time employee jobs[1] in local authorities containing principal seaside towns in England and Wales for 2008

Principal seaside towns	Local authority	Median full-time
Greater Bournemouth	Bournemouth UA	*479
Greater Brighton	Brighton and Hove UA	*480
Greater Blackpool	Blackpool UA	*358
Greater Worthing	Worthing	*439
Southend-on-Sea	Southend-on-Sea UA	*439
Isle of Wight	Isle of Wight UA	*420
Torbay	Torbay UA	*376
Hastings/Bexhill	Hastings	*386
Thanet	Thanet	**384
Southport	Sefton	*426
Eastbourne	Eastbourne	*475
Weston-super-Mare	North Somerset UA	*480
Whitstable/Herne Bay	Canterbury	*431
Llandudno/Colwyn Bay/Conway	Conwy/Conwy	*417
Folkstone/Hythe	Shepway	**466
Lowestoft	Waveney	*388
Clacton	Tendring	*370
Great Yarmouth	Great Yarmouth	*448
Scarborough	Scarborough	*411
Weymouth	Weymouth and Portland	*340
Morecambe and Heysham	Lancaster	*440
Rhyl/Prestatyn	Denbighshire/Sir Ddinbych	*422
Bognor Regis	Arun	*404
Whitley Bay	North Tyneside	*411
Exmouth	Teignbridge	*405
Bridlington	East Riding of Yorkshire UA	*450
Dawlish/Teignmouth	Teignbridge	*405
Deal	Dover	*450

Median weekly pay—Gross (£)—For full-time employee jobs[1] in local authorities containing principal seaside towns in England and Wales for 2008

Principal seaside towns	*Local authority*	*Median full-time*
Barry	The Vale of Glamorgan/Bro Morgannwg	*484
Newquay	Restormel	*378
Penzance	Penwith	**313
Falmouth	Carrick	*436
Burnham-on-Sea	Sedgemoor	*398
Skegness	East Lindsey	**377
Porthcawl	Bridgend/Pen-y-bont ar Ogwr	*430
Sidmouth	East Devon	*380
Whitby	Scarborough	*411
Minehead	West Somerset	X
St. Ives	Penwith	**313
Ilfracombe	North Devon	*352
Swanage	Purbeck	**400

[1] Employees on adult rates whose pay for the survey pay-period was not affected by absence.

Guide to quality:

The Coefficient of Variation (CV) indicates the quality of a figure, the smaller the CV value the higher the quality. The true value is likely to lie within +/- twice the CV - for example, for an average of 200 with a CV of 5 per cent. we would expect the population average to be within the range 180 to 220.

Key:

CV <= 5 per cent.
* CV > 5 per cent. and < = 10 per cent.
** CV > 10 per cent. and< = 20 per cent.
x CV > 20 per cent.

Source:

Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings, Office for National Statistics.

Population

Mr. Soames: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what the net international migration was affecting *(a)* England, *(b)* Scotland, *(c)* Wales and *(d)* Northern Ireland in each year since 1991. [265687]

Kevin Brennan *[holding answer 23 March 2009]:* The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated March 2009:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to respond to your question concerning what the net international migration was for *(a)* England, *(b)* Scotland, *(c)* Wales and *(d)* Northern Ireland in each year since 1991. (265687)

Official estimates of net international migration for the constituent countries of the UK in each year since 1991 are given in Table 1.

Net migration to the countries of the UK, 1991-92 to 2006-07

Thousand

Mid-year to mid-year	*England*	*Wales*	*Scotland*[1]	*Northern Ireland*[2]
1991-92	+23	-2	-16	—
1992-93	-6	-1	-3	+1
1993-94	+44	—	-1	+1
1994-95	+78	+1	-3	—
1995-96	+72	+4	-4	+2
1996-97	+58	+2	-6	+1
1997-98	+85	+3	-9	+1
1998-99	+156	+2	+1	-5
1999-2000	+148	+4	+12	-1
2000-01	+179	-1	+6	-2
2001-02	+148	+3	—	-1
2002-03	+152	-1	-4	-1
2003-04	+172	+2	+1	—
2004-05	+251	—	+8	+5
2005-06	+162	+3	+6	+9
2006-07	+180	+5	+17	+8

[1] The estimates for Scotland have been revised. However, international migration estimates for Scotland for the purposes of estimating population change will not be revised and so there may be some differences.

[2] The Northern Ireland figures are based on new registrations with a family doctor from outside the UK.

Source:

International Passenger Survey, Home Office, Irish Central Statistics Office, NISRA Figures for England, Wales and Scotland are published as table 2.11 on: http://www.statistics.gov.uk/statbase/Product.asp?vlnk=15053

Redundancy: Hertfordshire

Mike Penning: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster (1) how many people have been made redundant in *(a)* Hemel Hempstead and *(b)* Hertfordshire in the last six months; [265801]

(2) how many people identified as unemployed in *(a)* Hemel Hempstead and *(b)* Hertfordshire had been out of work for 12 months or more in each of the last five months; [265804]

(3) how many people under the age of 21 years were identified as unemployed in *(a)* Hemel Hempstead and *(b)* Hertfordshire in each of the last five years; [265806]

(4) how many people identifying themselves as disabled have been employed in *(a)* Hemel Hempstead and *(b)* Hertfordshire in each year since 1997.[1] [265818]

Kevin Brennan: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated March 2009:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Questions asking how many people have been made redundant in (a) Hemel Hempstead and (b) Hertfordshire in the last six months; how many people under the age of 21 years were identified as unemployed in (a) Hemel Hempstead and (b) Hertfordshire in each of the last five years; how many people identifying themselves as disabled have been employed in (a) Hemel Hempstead and (b) Hertfordshire in each year since 1997; how many people identified as unemployed in (a) Hemel Hempstead and (b) Hertfordshire had been out of work for 12 months or more in each of the last five months. (265801, 265806, 265818 & 265804)

The Office for National Statistics (ONS) compiles labour market statistics for local areas from the Annual Population Survey (APS) and its predecessor the annual Labour Force Survey (LFS) following International Labour Organisation (ILO) definitions. Estimates of the number of people in employment identifying themselves as disabled have been compiled from this source. However, this source does not support analysis of redundancies at these geographic levels and no alternate source is available. It is also not possible to analyse unemployment by small age groups, or for specific durations, for small geographic areas from this source. As an alternative to that, analyses of the count of claimants of Jobseeker's Allowance (JSA) for the areas requested has been provided.

Table 1 shows the number of persons claiming JSA who are under the age of 19 and resident in the Hemel Hempstead constituency or Hertfordshire. Statistics of the count of claimants of persons claiming JSA are not available for persons under the age of 21.

1.*[Official Report, 12 May 2009, Vol. 492, c. 10MC.]*

Table 2 shows the number of persons of all ages claiming JSA for more than 12 months, who are resident in Hemel Hempstead or Hertfordshire.

Table 3 show the number of persons resident in Hertfordshire, who identified themselves as having a limiting health problem lasting more than 12 months, and were employed. Figures have been provided for periods up to June 2008, the latest period for which figures are available. Estimates for Hemel Hempstead have not been supplied as they are statistically unreliable.

As even the estimates quoted are for a subset of the population in small geographical areas, they are based on small sample sizes, and are therefore subject to large margins of uncertainty. A guide to the quality of the estimates is given in Table3.

National and local area estimates for many labour market statistics, including employment, unemployment and the claimant count are available on the NOMIS website at

http://www.nomisweb.co.uk

Table 1. Number of persons aged under 19 claiming Jobseeker's Allowance resident in Hemel Hempstead Constituency and Hertfordshire

As at February each year	*Hemel Hempstead*	*Hertfordshire*
2005	268	1,898
2006	322	2,212
2007	280	2,196
2008	242	1,772
2009	378	3,188

Source:
Jobcentre Plus administrative system

Table 2. Number of persons claiming Jobseeker's Allowance for more than 12 months resident in Hemel Hempstead Constituency and Hertfordshire

	Hemel Hempstead	*Hertfordshire*
October 2008	96	712
November 2008	97	751
December 2008	103	775
January 2009	109	809
February 2009	112	837

Source:
Jobcentre Plus administrative system

Table 3. Number of disabled[1] persons in employment resident in Hertfordshire

12 months ending	*Hertfordshire (Thousand)*
February 1999	48
February 2000	51
February 2001	56
February 2002	58
February 2003	66
February 2004	63
March 2005	58
March 2006	63
March 2007	52
March 2008	67
June 2008	**69

[1] Persons age 16+ who had a limiting health problem lasting more than 12 months

Note:
Coefficients of Variation have been calculated for the latest period as an indication of the quality of the estimates. See Guide to Quality below.

Guide to Quality:
The Coefficient of Variation (CV) indicates the quality of an estimate, the smaller the CV value the higher the quality. The true value is likely to lie within +/- twice the CV—for example, for an estimate of 200 with a CV of 5% we would expect the population total to be within the range 180-220

Key Statistical Robustness
* Estimates are considered precise
** Estimates are considered reasonably precise
*** Estimates are considered acceptable
**** Estimates are considered too unreliable for practical purposes

Source:
Annual Population Survey/Annual Labour Force Survey

Teenage Pregnancy: Hertfordshire

Mike Penning: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how many girls under 16 years of age resident in *(a)* Hemel Hempstead and *(b)* Hertfordshire became pregnant in each of the last 10 years. [265800]

Kevin Brennan: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated 24 March 2009:

As National Statistician I have been asked to reply to your recent question asking how many girls under 16 years of age became pregnant in *(a)* Hemel Hempstead and *(b)* Hertfordshire in each of the last 10 years. (265800)

Available figures are estimates of the number of conceptions that resulted in a live birth and/or stillbirth (a maternity) or a legal termination.

Numbers of conceptions to girls under 16 years of age in Hertfordshire for the years 1998-2007 (the most recent year for which figures are available), are shown in the attached table. Figures for 2007 are provisional.

Information on conceptions is not routinely published for parliamentary constituencies. Hence figures cannot be provided for Hemel Hempstead constituency because of the risk of disclosing individual's information, due to small differences between the parliamentary constituency and local authority boundaries. Figures are instead provided for Dacorum county district for 1998-2007, in the attached table.

Number of conceptions to girls aged under 16 by selected area of usual residence 1998 to 2007

	Hertfordshire	*Dacorum CD*
1998	100	20
1999	122	14
2000	105	11
2001	103	11
2002	104	10
2003	99	14
2004	115	17
2005	101	20
2006	94	15
2007	114	20

Note:
Figures for 2007 are provisional

V: Gloucestershire

Mr. Drew: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what volunteering opportunities the charity v provides for young people in Gloucestershire. [265560]

Kevin Brennan: v has put in place a network of *v*involved teams across England to create new volunteering opportunities and support young people to find volunteering placements that match their passions and interests. In Gloucestershire the *v*involved team is hosted by Young Gloucestershire and expects to create around 5,700 new opportunities. In South Gloucestershire the *v*involved team is hosted by Young Bristol and expects to create around 2,700 new opportunities. Each *v*involved team has also recruited a Youth Action Team, a group of young people who promote volunteering to their peers.

Through v's youth fund *v*cashpoint, in partnership with HSBC, young people in Gloucestershire and elsewhere can apply directly for funds of up to £2,500 to set up their own community project. To date four projects have been funded in Gloucestershire.

In addition there are a number of match fund projects with activity in the south-west, which covers Gloucestershire:

ITV Fixers
Community Rugby
Rugby League
Lawn Tennis Association
England and Wales Cricket Board
BTCV—Greenprints.

HOME DEPARTMENT

Alcoholic Drinks: Crime

Mr. Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what estimate she has made of the number of alcohol-related crimes committed between the hours of 3 am and 6 am in *(a)* Lancashire and *(b)* England in each year since 2000. [253224]

Mr. Alan Campbell *[holding answer 2 February 2009]:* The most recently published report, 'The impact of the Licensing Act 2003 on levels of crime and disorder: an evaluation' (2008) by Hough et al, found that violent offences between 3 am and 6 am had increased by 236 incidents in the first year following the introduction of the Act. These offences represent 4 per cent. of all night time offences. Overall the review found that crimes involving violence during the whole evening and night time had reduced.

To understand what is happening in the 3 am to 6 am period, we will undertake further comprehensive research into post-midnight drinking patterns and their impact on crime and disorder.

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what estimate she has made of the number of alcohol-related crimes committed between the hours of 3 am and 6 am in *(a)* Essex and *(b)* England in each year since 2000. [254994]

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what estimate she has made of the number of alcohol-related crimes committed between the hours of 3am and 6am in *(a)* Hemel Hempstead and *(b)* Hertfordshire in each year since 2000. [255586]

Mr. Alan Campbell: The most recently published report, "The Impact of the Licensing Act 2003 on Levels of Crime and Disorder: An Evaluation" (2008) by Hough et al, found that violent offences between 3 am and 6 am had increased by 236 incidents in the first year following the introduction of the Act. These offences represent 4 per cent. of all night time offences. Overall the review found that crimes involving violence during the whole evening and night-time had reduced.

To understand what is happening in the 3 am to 6 am period, we will undertake further comprehensive research into post-midnight drinking patterns and their impact on crime and disorder.

Antisocial Behaviour: Public Transport

James Brokenshire: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when the joint review with the Department for Transport announced on 8 May 2008 on combating anti-social behaviour on public transport will be published. [263193]

Mr. Alan Campbell: The National Centre for Social Research Omnibus Survey asked members of the public about their perceptions of safety from crime while using public transport, and personal experiences of antisocial behaviour or crime on public transport. The survey was published on 18 September 2008. In addition we undertook a review of the tools and powers. We are planning to hold events for transport stakeholders to make more effective use of antisocial behaviour tools and powers. As part of the recently launched Violence Against Women and Girls consultation, we are surveying women's and girls, personal safety at night, including local streets and public transport.

Asylum

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people receiving section 4 support have been waiting to have their asylum case processed for longer than *(a)* six months, *(b)* one year, *(c)* three years, *(d)* five years and *(e)* 10 years. [258003]

Mr. Woolas: None. People receiving section 4 support have had their asylum claim considered and their appeal rights are exhausted.

Coroners: Greater London

Simon Hughes: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer of 9 December 2008, *Official Report*, column 405, on the de Menezes inquest, what discussions she has had with the London boroughs of Southwark, Lambeth, Lewisham and Greenwich on sharing the cost of the inquest; and if she will make a statement. [260584]

Mr. Coaker *[holding answer 4 March 2009]:* The Government have agreed that in view of the exceptional nature of the case and the burdens placed on the local authorities, they will make a contribution to meet the excess costs of the inquest. Following agreement with the boroughs, we will on an exceptional basis be paying just under £2.5 million in full and final settlement.

Crime: Financial Services

Jim Cousins: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what estimates the National Fraud Reporting Centre has made of the present level of financial crime. [264731]

Mr. Coaker *[holding answer 19 March 2009]:* The National Fraud Reporting Centre is under development and is not yet operational. Public facing trials will take place later this year with the Reporting Centre being fully rolled out in 2010.

Departmental Contracts

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what *(a)* institutions supported by the higher education funding councils and *(b)* other organisations and bodies have been awarded contracts by Home Office Research, Development and Statistics in each financial year since 2003. [259862]

Jacqui Smith: The following lists show the institutions supported by the higher education funding councils and, separately, "other organisations and bodies" including named individuals that were awarded contracts let by the Research, Development and Statistics group within the Home Office since 2003.

List A: Institutions supported by higher education funding councils 2003-04

Cardiff University
De Montfort University
Edinburgh University
Glamorgan University
Kings College London
Middlesex University
Newcastle University
Oxford University
School for Policy Studies (University of Bristol)
Sheffield Hallam University
South Bank University
University of Bristol
University of Central England
University of Glamorgan
University of Glasgow
University of Leicester
University of Liverpool
University of Manchester
University of Oxford
University of Southampton
University of Surrey
University of Warwick
University of York

List B: Other organisations and bodies including named individuals 2003-04

ACF Hospitality
Aidan Wilcox
Alan Aldridge
Alan Dyson
Alan Gilbert
Alice Bloch
Andrew Harvey
Andrew Percy
Anthony Bleetman
B. Fletcher
Barry Webb
Beryl Foster
Betsy Thorn
BMRB International
Brian Francis
Cathy Humphreys
Cathy Pharoah
Charities Aid Foundation
Charles Jackson
Charlie Lloyd
Chris Brunsdon
Chris Hale
Christine Knott
Christine Mann
Christos Byron
Churches Commission for Racial Justice
Colin Aitken
Colin Roberts
Coretta Phillips
Coretta Phillips/Ben Bowling
Crime Concern
Daniel Gilling
David Berridge
David Brown
David Gee
Debra Salmon
Denis Allnutt
Derrick Armstrong
Dick Hobbs
Dougal Hutchison
Dr. Andrew Costello
Ed Mitchell
Eileen Goddard
Enterprise LSE Ltd
Eugene McLauglin
Galahad SMS Ltd.
Gene Feder
Gloria Laycock
Gordon Hay
Harry Daniels
Hartley McMaster
Hazel Kemshall
Hobbs & Hook Consulting
Howard Parker
Inst.of Education
Inst.of Psychiatry
Institute for Criminal Policy Research
Institute for Volunteering Research
James Brown
James Milner
James Mitchell
Jan Van Dijk
Janet Foster
Janet Stockdale (LSE)
Janet Walker
Jason Ditton
Jeffery Round
Jennifer Brown
Jessica Jacobson
Jim LeBeau
Jo Moran Ellis
John Spincer
John Tierney
John Witton
Jonathan Shepherd
Joseph P. Hornick
Joyce Green

Joyce Plotnikoff
Joyce Plotnikoff/Richard Woolfson
Judith Watson
Julie Vennard
K International
Katia Amore
Keith Soothill
Ken Pease
Kris Bush
Leslie J Moran
Leslie L Davidson
Lexicon Ltd.
Liz Kelly
Lucent
Ludwig Kraus
M&A Research
Margaret Hauser
Marian Barnes
Martin Gill
Martin Hamblin GfK
Martin Innes
Martin Plant
Mary McMurran
Matrix Research and Consultancy
Matt Hopkins
Matthew Hickman
MHB
Michael Gossop
Michael Tuffrey
Michael Zander
Mike Hough
Mike Levi
Mike Locke
Mike Maguire
Mike Nash
Mike Shiner
Mike Sutton
MORI
Murray Rose
NACRO
Nando Sigona
National Centre For Social Research
Neighbourhood Renewal Unit
NERA
NFER
NFO Social Research
Nick Tilley
North London Forensic Service
Office for Public Management
Opinion Leader Research
ORC International
Paul Catley
Paul Turnbull
Per-Olaf Wikstrom
Peter Clarke
Peter Kemp
Peter Lynn
Peter Reuter
Peter Wells/Lynne Dowson
Plusfour Market Research
Rebecca McKetin
Robert Adlam
Robert Langworthy
Robert Witt
Rodney Taylor
Roger Matthews
Roger Vickerman
Ronald Clarke
Sally Hillsman
Sally L Clarke
Shane Johnson
Sharon Lloyd
Simon Holdaway
Social Issues Research Centre
St. George's Hospital Medical School
Stakeholder Research Associates Ltd. (Charles Jackson)
Stephen Machin
Stephen Pudney
Steven Furnell
Stuart Lister
Sue Bridge
Susan Edwards
Susan McVie
Suzie Scott
Sylvia Chennery
Terri Moffitt
Terry Honess
Tim John
Tim Millar
Tim Read
Tom Ellis
Trescom Research and Consultancy Ltd.
Trevor Jones
Urban Institute
Vaughn Robinson
Way With Words
Wesley Skogan

List C: Institutions supported by higher education funding councils 2004-05

KCSG — Keele University
Lancaster University
Northumbria University
Nottingham Trent University
Sheffield Hallam University
The University of Birmingham
University College London
University of Bath
University of Essex
University of Essex
University of Glamorgan
University of Glasgow
University of Lancaster
University of Manchester
University of Portsmouth
University of York

List D: Other organisations and bodies including named individuals 2004-05

A. Culyer

A. Worrall
Abbsec
Alan Clarke
Alan Dowie
Alan Williams
Alex Hirschfield
Alice Bloch
Alison Liebling
Andrew Costello
Andrew Sanders
Barbara Leonard
Ben Bowling
Betsy Stanko
BMRB International
Brian Francis
Bryan Collis
Bryan Gibson
C.Hoyle Oxford
Caroline Hudson
Cassin - Scott Associates Ltd
Charities Aid Foundation
Chris Brunsdon
Chris Hale
Christine Godfrey
Claire Corbett
Clive Hollin
Colin Drummond
Colin Roberts/Paul Dawson
Colin Webster
Coretta Phillips
Creative Research Limited
Crime Concern
Datasprings
David Best
David Carrington
David Farrington
David Mackay
David Pearce
David Williams
David Woodthorpe
Deloitte MCS Ltd
Derek Deadman
Dick Hobbs
DSTL
DVLA
Emma Wincup
Evidence Led Solutions
Fast Future
Fergal Davis
Fiona Poland
Future Creation
G. Stoker
Gary Craig/Marilyn Taylor
Geoff Berry Associates
Geoffrey Randall
George Mair
Gil Martin
Gloria Laycock
Goeff Berry Associates
Gordon Hay
Graham Davies
Graham Farrell
Hannah Siddiqui
Hartley McMaster
Hassan Isse
Helen Westcott
Henley Centre
Hobbs and Hook Consulting
HVR
Ian Plewis
ICPR
Inst for Work& Health
Institute for Employment Studies
Jan Pickles
Jason Ditton
Jim Camp
Jo Dean
Joanna Taylor
John Eck
John Raine
Juanjo Medina
Judy Nixon
Julie Vennard
Katia Amore
Keith Soothill
Ken Pease
Khalid Koser
Laurence Alison
Leslie J Moran
Lexicon Ltd
Liz Kelly
Loraine Gelsthorpe
Louise Hobbs
M.Johnson
Mandy Burton
Marianne Hester
Mark Kebbell
Mark Liddle
Martin Gill
Martin Innes
Mary McMurran
Matt Hickman
Matt Hopkins
MHB
Michael Tonry
Mike Clarke
Mike Hough
Mike Levi
Mike Locke
Mike Maguire
Mike Nash
Mike Sutton
MORI
MORI/NOP
Nat Inst of Econ & Social Res
National Centre for Social Research
NCSR/BMRB
Neil McKeganey

Nick Longford (SNTL)
NOP World
Norman Davidson
North London Forensic Service, Barnet Enfield and Haringey Mental Health NHS Trust
Oakleigh Consulting Ltd
ODTC
Opinion Leader Research
PA Consulting Group
Pat Mayhew
Paul McMullan
Pauline Lane
Pete Alcock
Peter C Smith
Peter Jordan
Peter Manning
Peter Marshall
Peter Raynor
Peter Wells
Plotnikoff and Woolfson
Prof David Pearce
Prof David Smith
Ray Bull
Richard Disney
Rick Brown
Robert Gilchrist
Robert Witt
Robin Marris
Robin Williams
Roger Tarling
Ron Clarke
Ros Burnett
Ross Coomber
Rowland Atkinson
S.Wilcox
Safe Neighbourhoods Unit
Sally L Clarke
Shirley Simpson
Simon Holdaway
Simon Merrington
Stakeholder Research Associates
Stavros Georgiou
Stephen Machin
Steve Collett
Steven Furnell
Stuart Lister
Survey and Statistical Computing
Susan McVie
T. Connell
Tessa Peasgood
Thangam Debbonaire
The Future Foundation
Tiggey May
Tim Newburn
TNS
Tony Culyer
Tzeggai Deres
UCL Consultants Ltd
Vaughan Robinson
Verity Gelsthorpe
Wesley Skogan

List E: Institutions supported by higher education funding councils 2005-06

Cambridge University Technical Services Ltd
South Bank University
University of Huddersfield
University of Wolverhampton
London Metropolitan University
University of Bristol
University of Leicester
York University/ Charities Aid Foundation
University College London

List F: Other organisations and bodies including named individuals 2005-06

Andrew Westlake
Anthony Culyer
Anthony Petrosino
BMRB
Chris Hale
Christian Dustmann
Clive Smee
Cragg Ross Dawson
Dept of Health
Duncan Raistrick
Duncan Raistrick
Ethnos Research and Consultancy
Eurodata Computer Services
Filip Smit
G3 Ltd Statistical Training and Consultancy
Hobbs & Hook
ICM Research
Ipsos MORI
James Brown
Jennifer Hamley
Joanna Taylor
John Marsden
Ludwig Kraus
Lynda Joeman
Matrix Research and Consultancy
Michael Jones-Lee
Michael Waterson
Morgan Harris Burrows
MORI
Natcen
NOP
Oakleigh Consulting
PA Consulting
Peter John
Peter Jordan Associates
Professor Chris Skinner
Professor Peter Lynn
Roger Vickerman
Roy Robertson
Sally L Clarke
Tim Weaver
TNS
TQMI
TRL

Way With Words

List G: Institutions supported by higher education funding councils 2006-07

Bristol University
De Montfort University
Glasgow Caledonian University
Institute of Education, University of London
Northumbria University
Nottingham Trent University
Sheffield Hallam University
The Open University
The University of Manchester
University of Birmingham
University of Cambridge
University of London
University of Sheffield
University of York

List H: Other organisations and bodies including named individuals 2006-07

Alan Krupnick
Alex Hirschfield
Ann Netten
Ben Bowling
Bill Rhodes
BMRB Social Research
Carol Proper
Caroline Friendship
Cathy Pharoah
Charities Aid Foundation
Charlie Owen
Coretta Pillips
Creative Research
Daniel Nagin
Darrek Jolliffe
E.M.W. Maguire
Evidence Led Solutions
Geoff Berry Associates
Helen Powell
HVR Consulting
ICPR-Kings College London
Ipsos-MORI
John Roman
Julia Wickson
Kevin Marsh
Mark Cohen
Martin Hamblin gfk
Matrix Research and consultancy
Morgan Harris Burrows
Mori
Natcen
National Centre for Social Research
Oxford Economic Forecasting
Peter Reuter
PRCI Ltd
Prof. L Paoli
Professor Peter Lynn
Roger Bowles
Stephen Machin
Steve Aos
Steve Wilcox
UCL Consultants
Way with Words

List I: Institutions supported by higher education funding councils 2007-08

Keele University
Nottingham Trent University
The University of Manchester
University of Birmingham
University of Bristol
University of Cardiff
University of Kent
University of Oxford
University of York

List J: Other organisations and bodies including named individuals 2007-08

Analytica
BMRB
Dr F. MacDonald
Dr Ronald Clarke
Eurasylum
Evidence Led Solutions
Garry Robbins
Geoff Berry Associates
HVR Consulting
ICPR, Kings College
Independent Social Research
Institute for Employment Studies
Ipsos MORI
Mark Underhill
Matrix
Morgan Harris Burrows
MVA Consultancy
NatCen
ORC International
Perpetuity Research & Consultancy
Professor Anthony Culyer
Professor C. Dustmann
Professor C. Godfrey
Professor C. Hale
Professor Clive Smee
Professor M. Waterson
Professor R. Vickerman
Professor S. Machin
Professor S. Pudney
RED Scientific
Risk Solutions
Robert Bramley
Transparency Research Ltd
York Consulting

List K: Institutions supported by higher education funding councils 2008-09

Aberystwyth University
LSE (Centre of Economic Performance)
Northumbria University
Nottingham Trent University
University of Huddersfield
University of Oxford

List L: Other organisations and bodies including named individuals 2008-09

Alex Hirschfield
Evidence Led Solutions
Geoff Berry
Ipsos MORI
Julia Wickson
Mike Maguire
Morgan Harris Burrows
ORC International
UCL Consultants

Departmental ICT

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the initial estimated *(a)* cost and *(b)* delivery date was of each ICT project initiated by her Department in each year since 1997; what the (i) outturn cost and (ii) completion date was of each such project subsequently completed; what estimate she has made of the (A) outturn cost and (B) completion date of each such project which is ongoing; which contractors were hired for each project; and how much has been paid to each contractor in respect of each project to date. [251383]

Mr. Woolas: The information requested is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Legislation

Mr. Garnier: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what Acts for which her Department has policy responsibility received Royal Assent between 1 May 1997 and 1 January 2009; which provisions of those Acts *(a)* have not yet come into force, *(b)* have been repealed prior to coming into force and *(c)* have been repealed after coming into force; and how many prosecutions have taken place for each offence created under each of those Acts. [260665]

Mr. Alan Campbell *[holding answer 4 March 2009]*: The provisions of the following Acts, which received Royal Assent between 1 May 1997 and 1 January 2009 and for which the Home Secretary has policy responsibility, are fully in force:

Firearms (Amendment) (No. 2) Act 1997
Special Immigration Appeals Act 1997
Criminal Justice (Terrorism and Conspiracy) Act 1998
Criminal Justice (International Co-operation)(Amendment) Act 1998
Crime and Disorder Act 1998
Football (Offences and Disorder) Act 1999
Criminal Cases Review (Insanity) Act 1999
Sexual Offences (Amendment) Act 2000
Football Disorder Act 2000
Terrorism Act 2000
Mobile Telephones Reprogramming Act 2002
Football Disorder (Amendment) Act 2002
Female Genital Mutilation Act 2003
Sexual Offences Act 2003
Extradition Act 2003
Prevention of Terrorism Act 2005
Terrorism Act 2006
Racial and Religious Hatred Act 2006

The table lists provisions of Acts for which the Home Secretary has policy responsibility which received Royal Assent between 1 May 1997 and 1 January 2009 which are not yet in force.

It is not possible to provide lists of provisions which have been repealed prior to coming into force or which have been repealed after coming into force, without incurring disproportionate cost. For the same reason, it is not possible to say how many prosecutions have taken place for each offence created under each of the Acts referred to above.

Act	*Sections not in force*
Anti-social Behaviour Act 2003	85(5) (in part), Sch 2(2) (in part)
Anti-Terrorism, Crime and Security Act 2001	78
Asylum and Immigration(Treatment of Claimants, etc.) Act 2004	16
Counter-Terrorism Act 2008	1-18, 22-28, 30-61, 91, Sch 2-6, Sch 9 Part 3
Crime (International Co-Operation) Act 2003	10-12, 20-25, 54-75, Sch 3, Sch 4
Criminal Justice and Immigration Act 2008	98-117, 125, 130-137, 146
Criminal Justice and Police Act 2001	78(7), 80(4), Sch 7 para 6 (in part)
Domestic Violence, Crime and Victims Act 2004	9, 12 and Sch 10, 11 and 12 (in part)
Drugs Act 2005	2
Identity Cards Act 2006	1-24, 27-35, 39, 41, 42, 43, Sch 1
Immigration and Asylum Act 1999	16 and 17, 117(5)
Immigration Asylum and Nationality Act 2006	44, 50(3) (in part) and (6)
Nationality, Immigration and Asylum Act 2002	10(5)(a), 17 and 18 (for certain purposes), 19-33, 35(1) (a)-(g)(i) and (2) and (3), 36, 37, 39, 40(2) and (3), 41(2) and (3), 44-47, 51, 53, 124
Police and Justice Act 2006	14, 17, 19, 20, 21, 34, 43(1), 46 (in part), Sch 2 (in part), Sch 5 (in part), Sch 8, Sch 13 (in part), Sch 14 (in part) and Sch 15 (in part)
Police Reform Act 2002	45
Private Security Industry Act 2001	17 (part)
Proceeds of Crime Act 2002	Sch 11 para 17 (2) and Sch 12 (part)
Serious Crime Act 2007	77, 91 and 92, Sch 10, 13 and 14 (all in part)
Serious Organised Crime and Police Act 2005	120, 121, 114(9), 117(part), 162(3), Sch 4 (part), Sch 9 (part), Sch 10 (part), Sch 14 (part)
UK Borders Act 2007	19, 24, 32-38 (part), and 57

Act	*Sections not in force*
Vehicle (Crime) Act 2001	8, 34, 35, 36, Sch paras 1 and 2
Violent Crime Reduction Act 2006	1-14, 61, Sch 2 (part), Sch 5 (part)

Departmental Manpower

Justine Greening: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many *(a)* permanent, *(b)* agency and *(c)* temporary staff on contracts of (i) up to three months, (ii) between three and six months, (iii) between six and 12 months and (iv) 12 months or more there are in each directorate of her Department. [264309]

Mr. Woolas: Permanent Home Office civil servants are recruited on open ended contracts.

The Home Office policy on the tenure of agency staff is in concert with guidance promulgated by the Cabinet Office: Agency contracts are restricted to a maximum of 11 months; this may be extended in exceptional circumstances. Our databases do not record contract length details. To provide this information would incur a disproportionate cost owing to the need to investigate individual locally held staff files.

Temporary staff includes fixed-term appointments (FTA) whose contracts are for less than 12 months and those staff on short-term contracts paid through the Home Office payroll system. Our databases do not record length of contracts. To provide this information would incur a disproportionate cost owing to the need to investigate individual staff files.

Total numbers of staff are available in the 2008 Home Office departmental report at pages 102 to 104. A copy or the report is available in the House Library. Alternatively it can be found on the Home Office website at:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/documents/ho-annual-report-08/

Departmental Private Finance Initiative

Mrs. Curtis-Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what private finance initiatives her Department has entered into since 1997; what the total value of each contract was; who the name of the successful contractor was; which projects have been subject to refinancing arrangements; what the monetary value of the refinancing arrangement was in each such case; and what the extent of the clawback has been. [259551]

Mr. Woolas: The Home Department has entered into three private finance initiatives since 1997. Details of these contracts are provided in the following table:

Table 1

PFI description	*Value of contract (£ million) inclusive of VAT*	*Name of successful contractor*	*Has the PFI been subject to refinancing yes/no*
Home Office Central London accommodation (2 Marsham Street)	1,406.5 over 29 years	Anne's Gate Property plc	No
IT 2000 (Sirius)	700 over 10 years	Fujitsu Services (Akondo) Limited	No
IPS IT Pass Project	396.7 over 11 years	Siemens IT Services and Solutions	No

Departmental Public Expenditure

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what capital funding her Department has brought forward from its *(a)* 2009-10 and *(b)* 2010-11 budgets for use in (i) 2008-09 and (ii) 2009-10; and to what ends this funding has been allocated. [266205]

Mr. Woolas: As announced in the pre-Budget report on 24 November, £20 million of capital expenditure has been brought forward from 2010-11 to 2009-10. Half of this sum has been allocated to the Serious Organised Crime Agency and half to the National Police Improvement Agency, for improving their estates, developing and installing high technology systems and enhancing intelligence gathering against serious organised crime.

Departmental Recruitment

Justine Greening: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer of 10 February 2009, *Official Report*, column 1826W, on departmental recruitment, what estimate she has made of the annual salary cost of *(a)* permanent, *(b)* temporary and *(c)* agency staff recruited by her Department in each year since 2005-06. [264307]

Mr. Woolas: It is not possible to provide an estimate of the salary costs of the recruits provided in the answer of 10 February 2009, *Official Report*, column 1826W, without incurring a disproportionate cost. Significant time would need to be spent on investigating individual staff records to establish salary information.

Departmental Travel

Mr. Rob Wilson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many nights she spent in hotels on official business in each *(a)* region and *(b)* overseas country in each month since July 2007. [259614]

Mr. Woolas: The Government publish an annual list of Ministers' visits overseas costing more than £500. My right hon. Friend the Prime Minister's written statement of 22 July 2008, *Official Report*, column 102WS, set out spending for the financial year 2007-08. Information for 2008-09 will be published in the usual way after the end of the current financial year.

Information is not collected in a format to provide for the number of nights spent in hotels in each region.

Departmental Visits Abroad

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much expenditure was incurred in respect of overseas visits which *(a)* she, *(b)* other Ministers in her Department and *(c)* her Department's senior officials undertook in 2008. [262179]

Mr. Woolas: Since 1999, the Government have published a list of all overseas travel by Cabinet Ministers costing over £500. Information for the financial year 2007-08 was published on 22 July 2008, *Official Report*, column 102WS and for the first time, included details of overseas visits undertaken by all Ministers. All travel by Ministers is undertaken in accordance with the Ministerial Code.

The Department's accounting system does not separately identify expenditure undertaken by officials according to grade. Such information could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

The Department is required to make efficient and cost-effective travel arrangements. This is in accordance with the civil service Management Code.

Departmental Written Questions

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what average time her Department has taken to answer *(a)* named day and *(b)* ordinary written questions in Session 2008-09; how many named day questions received a reply on the day named; and how many named day questions receiving a holding reply received a substantive reply after a further (i) one day, (ii) two days, (iii) three days, (iv) four days, (v) five days, (vi) one week, (vii) two weeks and (viii) three weeks or more. [263289]

Mr. Alan Campbell: The following two tables provide the information requested for the parliamentary Session to date.

Table 1: Home Office performance answering named day[1] and ordinary written questions for 2008-09 parliamentary Session to 10 March 2009

		Number
	Named day	*Ordinary written*
Total answered	258	1,367
Average (median) sitting days to answer	5	6

[1] Named day questions include oral questions that are unstarred or not reached on the day.

Table 2: Sitting days taken to answer named day[1] questions, parliamentary Session 2008-09, to 10 March 2009

Answered	*Number*	*Percentage*
By named day	86	34
1 sitting day late	5	2
2 sitting days late	41	16
3 sitting days late	40	16
4 sitting days late	19	7
5 sitting days late	13	5
6-10 sitting days late	31	12
11-15 sitting days late	14	5
Over 15 sitting days late	9	3
Total	258	100

[1] Named day questions include oral questions that are unstarred or not reached on the day.

Deportation: Peterborough

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer of 27 January 2009, *Official Report*, column 284W, on deportation: Peterborough, how many individual records would have to be manually identified and analysed in order to produce a summary report; and what the estimated cost of doing so would be. [259018]

Mr. Woolas: The very nature of this question means it is difficult to quantify. High level estimates suggest that costs would exceed £10,000 and are therefore considered to be disproportionate.

Electronic Government

James Brokenshire: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what progress her Department has made on the development of the e-justice portal; and how much has been allocated for spending on such activity in each of the next two financial years. [264030]

Mr. Straw: I have been asked to reply.

The European Commission are leading the implementation of the European e-Justice portal and signed a contract with a service provider on 25 February 2009 to deliver the first release by 14 December 2009. Officials from all member states have contributed to the development of an e-Justice action plan which sets out the priorities and the technical specifications of the portal. The first release of the portal will include information on national and community law and procedures and will provide a link between insolvency, land and business registers in a number of member states.

The Commission are funding the development of the portal. As a rough guide, they have budgeted €1.5 million for the contract to develop the first release this year. However the scope of the portal and budget allocation will only become clear once the project and a content roadmap have been prepared in the near future. There is no compulsion for member states to be involved in individual European e-Justice projects and the decision about whether or not we will fund participation in particular projects will be made by the appropriate budget holding Department on a case by case basis.

Entry Clearances: Pakistan

Mrs. Gillan: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many applications for visitor visas from individuals in Pakistan are *(a)* being processed and *(b)* awaiting processing; and what the average waiting time between application and decision for such application was in the latest period for which figures are available. [264027]

Mr. Woolas *[holding answer 19 March 2009]*: We can provide figures for the number of applications (a) received and (b) resolved in any given period. During February 2009, a total of 2,441 UK visit visa applications were lodged at our visa application centres in Pakistan. Details of applications resolved in that month, including processing times, are shown in the following table. Some of the applications that were resolved will have been lodged before 1 February.

Visit visa applications: Pakistan—February 2009

Visa application centre	Number of applications resolved	Percentage resolved within (working days)			
		5	10	15	20
Islamabad	2,656	76.8	91.0	96.6	98.3
Karachi	1,193	5.5	17.5	33.5	96.3
Lahore	2,291	4.6	20.5	38.8	94.6
Mirpur	342	75.5	89.5	90.7	91.5

Source:
Central Reference System/UKBA Visa Services website

Human Trafficking: Deportation

Margaret Moran: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many 17 to 19 year olds apprehended following investigations into child trafficking have subsequently been deported in each of the last five years. [263685]

Mr. Woolas: This information is not centrally recorded and could be obtained only by the detailed examination of individual case records at disproportionate cost.

The Home Office publishes statistics on the number of persons removed and departed voluntarily from the UK on a quarterly and annual basis. National statistics on immigration and asylum are placed in the Library of the House and are available from the Home Office's Research, Development and Statistics website at:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/immigration-asylum-stats.html

National DNA Database: Children

Paul Holmes: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many profiles stored on the national DNA database were of children aged *(a)* under two years, *(b)* two years, *(c)* three years, *(d)* four years, *(e)* five years, *(f)* six years, *(g)* seven years, *(h)* eight years and *(i)* nine years on the latest date for which figures are available. [263806]

Mr. Alan Campbell: The Home Secretary made clear in her speech on 16 December 2008 that she believed it was wrong for children under 10 years to be held on the national DNA database. As a result, as of 5 March 2009, none of the profiles stored on the national DNA database by police forces in England and Wales were of children aged under 10 years old.

Offenders: Deportation

Damian Green: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much her Department spent on deportations in 2008. [263196]

Mr. Woolas: It is not possible to provide a comprehensive figure for the overall cost of removals and deportations in 2008 because there are many different factors which may or may not be involved in the cost of a case (such as detention costs, travel costs, and the cost of escorting the individual in question). We are unable to disaggregate the specific costs and any attempt to do so would incur disproportionate cost.

Offenders: Foreigners

Damian Green: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many foreign national prisoners were being held in police detention on 28 February 2009. [263216]

Mr. Hanson: I have been asked to reply.

On 28 February 2009 there were no foreign national prisoners held in police cells under Operation Safeguard.

Police cells under Operation Safeguard have not been used to hold prisoners since 22 September 2008 and no police cells have been on stand by since the end of October 2008.

I am unable to say if any foreign national prisoners were held in police custody other than under Operation Safeguard.

Olympic Games 2012: Security

Tom Brake: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether she has had discussions with private security companies on security arrangements for the London 2012 Olympics. [264329]

Mr. Coaker: In recent months we have briefed representatives of the wider private security and security supply industries about the Olympic security programme. We have an ongoing engagement with industry over the Government's Olympic security needs.

We are working with the Security Industry Authority (SIA) and the British Security Industry Authority (BSIA) to ensure that there is appropriate provision of private security staff during the Games. We will consider carefully the lessons from previous Games about retention of security staff. We are providing financial support for the 'Bridging the Gap' initiative with Skills for Security and the Further Education sector to provide training for new security staff aimed at roles within the Games and a long-term career in the industry.

Mr. Ellwood: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what advice her Department has provided to hotels in London on security arrangements for the London 2012 Olympics. [264456]

Mr. Coaker *[holding answer 18 March 2009]:* The Government have already provided hotels with security advice through the National Counter Terrorism Security Office publication 'Counter Terrorism Protective Security Advice for Hotels and Restaurants'. We intend to provide complementary Olympic-specific guidance to hotels hosting athletes, officials and members of the Olympic family at the appropriate time as part of our wider Olympic security plans.

Police: Resignations

Paul Holmes: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many police officers resigned in each year since 2005. [264708]

Mr. Coaker: Available data relate to the financial years 2005-06 to 2007-08 and are given in the following table.

Police officer resignations[1] by police force area (FTE[2]): England and Wales, 2005-06 to 2007-08[3]

Police force area	*2005-06[4]*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*
Avon and Somerset	77	35	48
Bedfordshire	24	23	31
Cambridgeshire	26	28	12
Cheshire	37	24	17
Cleveland	24	25	23
Cumbria	11	17	11
Derbyshire	20	41	39
Devon and Cornwall	44	34	38
Dorset	22	19	26
Durham	15	16	19
Essex	79	81	73
Gloucestershire	19	20	18
Greater Manchester	186	159	136
Hampshire	64	49	46
Hertfordshire	55	63	50
Humberside	31	34	40
Kent	66	49	57
Lancashire	26	32	34
Leicestershire	45	27	53
Lincolnshire	20	16	16
London, City of	11	11	16
Merseyside	83	61	41
Metropolitan Police	337	531	360
Norfolk	22	24	16
Northamptonshire	24	19	25
Northumbria	38	49	46
North Yorkshire	17	32	31
Nottinghamshire	14	28	23
South Yorkshire	40	38	40
Staffordshire	24	22	24
Suffolk	14	12	23
Surrey	37	46	47
Sussex	82	76	76
Thames Valley	131	86	78
Warwickshire	12	18	20
West Mercia	19	38	32
West Midlands	137	105	91
West Yorkshire	89	65	84
Wiltshire	26	16	28
Dyfed-Powys	12	8	12
Gwent	20	16	24
North Wales	27	22	16
South Wales	29	39	80
Total	2,133	2,151	2,020

[1] Does not include transfers to other England and Wales forces.

[2] Full-time equivalent figures have been rounded to the nearest whole number. Because of this there may be an apparent discrepancy between totals and sums of the constituent items.

[3] Financial year runs 1 April to 31 March inclusive.

[4] Over 1,000 police officers previously working with the National Crime Squad (NCS) and the National Criminal Intelligence Squad (NCIS) left their home force to join the Serious Organised Crime Agency (SOCA) when it launched on 1 April 2006.

Prostitution

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what discussions she has had on the proposals contained in her Department's review Tackling The Demand For Prostitution 08 with *(a)* the English Collective of Prostitutes, *(b)* the International Sex Workers' Union, *(c)* the National Association of Probation Officers, *(d)* the Police Federation, *(e)* the Prison Officers' Association, *(f)* local authorities, *(g)* organisations from the voluntary sector and *(h)* the Law Society; and if she will publish written submissions on the subject her Department has received from each such organisation. [247526]

Mr. Alan Campbell: The Government wrote to a range of interested organisations on 26 September to seek their views on proposed legislation. We received 67 responses from a variety of organisations representing the voluntary sector, statutory partners, local authorities and representatives of persons involved in prostitution and the lap dancing industry. This was not a formal consultation and we did not indicate to potential respondents that their responses would be published. We therefore do not feel it appropriate to do so, although individual organisations are, of course, free to publicise their own views.

The issues involved here have also been subject to detailed scrutiny and discussion during the passage of the Policing and Crime Bill.

JUSTICE

Bail Accommodation and Support Service

Mr. Grieve: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice for what duration he expects the next contract for the provision of the bail accommodation and support services to last. [266240]

Mr. Straw: Decisions about the duration of the next contract will be taken as part of any re-tendering process.

Care Proceedings: Applications

Kelvin Hopkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many applications for care proceedings were made by local authorities in England and Wales in each month of *(a)* 2006, *(b)* 2007 and *(c)* 2008. [258201]

Bridget Prentice: The number of public law care and supervision applications under section 31 of the Children Act 1989 from April 2007 to December 2008 are shown in the following table. Public law cases are those brought by local authorities or an authorised person (currently only the NSPCC). Figures relate to the number of children that are subject to each application, are for England and Wales, and have been rounded to the nearest 10. Please note that 2008 figures remain subject to change, particularly the later months of the year.

The majority of applications are made in Family Proceedings Courts (FPCs). There have been data quality issues with figures for FPCs, and a new method of data collection was introduced in April 2007 which has improved the quality and level of recording on previous years. Prior to April 2007 the collection was on a quarterly basis, meaning that monthly data are not available.

Comparisons between short time periods (one or two months) as presented in this table should be made with caution as these figures are subject to more volatility than those covering longer time periods.

Number of public law care and supervision applications under section 31 of the Children Act 1989, England and Wales—County Courts and Family Proceedings Courts

	Family Proceedings Courts[1]	*County Courts[2]*	*Total[3]*
April 2007	820	350	1,160
May 2007	1,030	350	1,380

Number of public law care and supervision applications under section 31 of the Children Act 1989, England and Wales—County Courts and Family Proceedings Courts

	Family Proceedings Courts[1]	*County Courts*[2]	*Total*[3]
June 2007	860	330	1,190
July 2007	1,030	250	1,280
August 2007	960	290	1,250
September 2007	840	230	1,070
October 2007	900	250	1,150
November 2007	920	240	1,150
December 2007	870	140	1,010
January 2008	970	140	1,110
February 2008	880	160	1,040
March 2008	1,040	250	1,290
April 2008	590	220	810
May 2008	550	160	710
June 2008	650	300	950
July 2008	800	310	1,110
August 2008	780	160	930
September 2008	830	180	1,010
October 2008	870	200	1,070
November 2008	1,090	160	1,240
December 2008	1,270	230	1,500

[1] There have been data quality issues with figures for Family Proceedings Courts. A new method of collection was introduced in April 2007 which has improved the coverage and completeness of data. Figures for three courts in January 2008 have been estimated.
[2] Research undertaken on behalf of Ministry of Justice has identified that some cases that have transferred from the Family Proceedings Court to the County Court have been incorrectly recorded as new applications in the County Court, thus inflating the reported number of new applications through double counting (see Masson et al 2008).
[3] Does not include applications in High Courts.
Source:
HMCS FamilyMan and manual returns, as at January 2009

Departmental Public Consultation

Mr. Grieve: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what consultation documents have been issued by *(a)* the National Offender Management Service and *([illegible])* HM Courts Service in the last 12 months. [266[illegible]2]

Mr. Straw: In the last 12 months, the National Offender Management Service has issued the following consultation documents:

Best Value in Probation

Rules for Mandatory Polygraphy for Sex Offenders

Reducing Reoffending in London

In the last 12 months, Her Majesty's Courts Service has issued the following consultation documents:

Proposed closure of Nelson County Court

The Future of Camden and Islington Youth Work

Consultation on the proposal to merge the Dudley and Stourbridge and Halesowen Local Justice Areas

Proposed Merger of Warley and West Bromwich Local Justice Areas.

Departmental Public Expenditure

Mr. Grieve: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) what contribution he expects each of his Department's *(a)* agencies and *(b)* business areas to make to its performance and efficiency programme; [264637]

(2) what contribution he expects each agency for which his Department is responsible and each business area in his Department to make to the Performance and Efficiency Programme. [266241]

Mr. Straw: The performance and efficiency programme (PEP) has been established to ensure that the Ministry of Justice achieves £1 billion in value for money savings by 2011.

The following table shows the savings expected from each of the Ministry of Justice's agencies and business areas, as published in the Value for Money Delivery Agreement in February 2008.

MoJ business group/agency	*Planned savings over CSR07 (£ million)*
National Offender Management Service (NOMS)	250
Legal Aid Reform	180
Her Majesty's Court Service	140
Tribunals Service	45
Other	392
Total Value for Money Savings Target	1,007

The Department's progress against these targets, the breakdown of which continues to be refined, was set out in the autumn performance report in December 2008 and will be published in the forthcoming Departmental Annual Report in May. The MoJ is ensuring its frontline services are protected while increasing efficiency in its back office areas.

Departmental Training

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many *(a)* staff and *(b)* ministerial away days were organised by his Department in each of the last five years; and what the total cost was in each year. [265103]

Mr. Straw: The Ministry of Justice (MOJ) does not hold centrally information on how many staff away days were organised. To collate this information would necessitate enquiring of all business areas across significant number of MOJ bodies, which would entail disproportionate cost.

The MOJ was launched on 9 May 2007. Since then there have been two ministerial away days. One in November 2007 cost £2,618 and one in October 2008 cost £1,505.70.

Domestic Violence: Sentencing

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many offenders have been *(a)* fined, *(b)* imprisoned and *(c)* given community service following convictions for domestic violence in the last 12 months. [265336]

Mr. Hanson: The requested information is not available. Offences of domestic violence cannot be separately identified from other violent offences on the courts proceedings database, as only the offence is recorded not the circumstances of the offence.

Drugs: Sentencing

Mr. Denis Murphy: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what percentage of the *(a)* male and *(b)* female prison population received their sentence for committing drugs offences. [265164]

Mr. Hanson: At the end of January 2009, 15.2 per cent. of all sentenced male prisoners (9,780 out of 64,136) and 26.9 per cent. of all sentenced female prisoners (899 out of 3,337) in all prison establishments in England and Wales were serving sentences for drugs offences.

This information is taken from the Ministry of Justice monthly bulletin to be found at the following website:

http://www.justice.gov.uk/publications/populationincustody.htm

These figures have been drawn from administrative IT systems, which, as with any large scale recording system, are subject to possible errors with data entry and processing.

Executive Agencies: Pay

Mr. Grieve: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how much non-consolidated performance pay was paid to staff of *(a)* HM Courts Service, *(b)* HM Prison Service and *(c)* the Youth Justice Board in each of the last three years. [263853]

Mr. Straw: Across the MOJ, end-year non-consolidated performance payments have been made to high performing members of the Senior Civil Service (SCS) to reflect their individual contribution during the previous performance year.

For staff in pay bands beneath the SCS, payment of non-consolidated performance pay may be either "in year" or "end of year". "In year" non-consolidated performance payments are one-off payments to staff who have made an exceptional contribution on specific occasions. "End of year" non-consolidated performance pay has been paid as part of the Ministry's pay award to staff who have performed at an exceptional level throughout the performance year.

The figures in the following table show the total of "in year" and "end of year" payments to all staff in both the SCS and grades below the SCS:

£

	HMCS[1]	*HMPS*[2]	*YJB*
2007-08	3,677,512	2,660,805	82,440
2006-07	2,251,135	2,022,390	67,980
2005-06	1,505,003	202,403	33,110

[1] The figure for 2007-2008 includes "end of year" non-consolidated performance pay to staff in HMCS only, and "in year" payments for all core MoJ, including MoJ headquarters and the tribunals service. The figures for the two previous years include all performance related payments for core MoJ i.e. including MoJ headquarters and the tribunals service. It is not possible, other than at disproportionate cost, to disaggregate these figures further.

[2] The figures for non-consolidated performance pay to staff in HMPS for 2005-06 only refer to those in the SCS. Details of payments to staff below SCS could only be provided at disproportionate cost.

Governance of Britain: Public Consultation

Mrs. Laing: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what expenditure has been incurred since 3 July 2007 on *(a)* events and *(b)* consultations held as part of the Governance of Britain agenda. [265655]

Mr. Wills: The information requested is shown in the tables.

Table A includes events that have been held to date, involving external stakeholders and/or members of the public, where the Ministry of Justice incurred the expenditure. Table B includes the publication costs of all written consultations and the costs of deliberative consultations associated with the Governance of Britain agenda, but only where the Ministry of Justice incurred the expenditure. In addition we have attributed 50 per cent. of the costs associated with the development and maintenance of the Youth Citizenship Commission and Governance of Britain microsites to take account of the costs associated with running the online engagement and discussions.

Table A: Events

Description of event	*Cost (£)*
Governance of Britain event in Leicester: 10 December 2007	36,963.50
Five Governance of Britain 'townhall' events: June/July 2008	3929.42
Goldsmith Review of Citizenship:	
Launch event: 5 October 2007	4,700
Intra-EU seminar: 14 December 2007	3,000
Press conference 11 March 2008	577.51
Publication event: 11 March 2008	4617.12

Table B: Consultations

Description of consultation	*Cost (£)*
Development of the Statement of Values 'Framework for Discussion'	4,500
Costs of conducting the 'Election Day: Weekend Voting' consultation:	
Design and Printing	6,135.86
Production of welsh version	1,827
Youth Citizenship Commission: deliberative research	255,000
Design and Printing costs for the Framework for Greater citizen engagement discussion paper—July 2008	
Design and Printing costs	982.25
War Powers and Treaties: Limiting Executive Powers:	
Design and Printing costs	15,930.90
Rights and Responsibilities: developing our constitutional framework Green Paper 23 March 2009:	
Design and Print costs	15,747.81
Governance of Britain microsite: Cost of consultation elements of the site (50 per cent. of the total cost of development and maintenance to date)	5,287.87
Youth Citizenship Commission microsite Cost of consultation elements of the site (50 per cent. of the total cost of development and maintenance to date)	£17,507

Housing: Sales

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the *(a)* mean and *(b)* median sale price in 2008-09 prices was of house sales registered with the Land Registry in each year since 2000. [265247]

Mr. Wills: Land Registry is able to provide data on the mean price paid of all residential sales registered in each year since 2000. Details of the percentage change on annual average prices have been calculated on the basis of the 2008 calendar year prices as the RPI data covering the 2008-09 financial year are not yet available.

This question has been answered on the basis of recorded sales figures in England and Wales. Land Registry does not hold the information requested on median price paid and could not produce it except at disproportionate cost.

The figures are reflected in the following table.

	Mean price paid in (£)	*Mean price paid in (£) (adjusted to 2008 prices)*[1]	*RPI index (1987 = 100)*
2000	108,164	136,428	170.3
2001	119,275	147,838	173.3
2002	138,200	168,475	176.2
2003	156,154	185,008	181.3
2004	178,542	205,414	186.7
2005	189,580	212,093	192
2006	203,708	220,881	198.1
2007	219,408	228,116	206.6
2008	217,010	217,010	214.8

[1] Prices adjusted using the UK all items Retail Prices Index (RPI).

Land Registry

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many properties registered with the Land Registry changed ownership in each month since January 2006. [265246]

Mr. Wills: Land Registry is able to provide information on the total number of registered properties sold in each month from January 2006 to January 2009. As these figures are extracted using price paid data, no information is available for any properties which have not been sold. The only way to identify other changes of ownership would be to extract data regarding every application event over the time period asked for. This could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

The figures are reflected in the following table:

Month/year	*Total sales*
January 2006	78,006
February 2006	81,001
March 2006	106,341
April 2006	97,462
May 2006	107,618
June 2006	128,613
July 2006	119,610
August 2006	126,181
September 2006	121,013
October 2006	118,243
November 2006	120,144
December 2006	127,001
January 2007	90,989
February 2007	89,910
March 2007	110,260
April 2007	98,874
May 2007	111,931
June 2007	128,012
July 2007	120,878
August 2007	128,896
September 2007	101,607
October 2007	106,389
November 2007	104,527
December 2007	84,568
January 2008	59,831
February 2008	63,861
March 2008	60,296
April 2008	64,799
May 2008	67,217
June 2008	60,784
July 2008	54,239
August 2008	49,435
September 2008	42,438
October 2008	45,248
November 2008	36,238
December 2008	38,410
January 2009	23,458

Magistrates Courts: Cumbria

Mr. Jamie Reed: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many cases were heard in magistrates courts in *(a)* Cumbria and *(b)* Copeland constituency in each year since 1997. [264072]

Bridget Prentice: The number of defendants proceeded against at magistrates courts, heard at magistrates courts and committed for trial at the Crown court, for all offences in Cumbria police force area, 1997 to 2007 can be viewed in the following table.

Information held centrally cannot be broken down to constituency or court level, thus Cumbria police force area data have been provided in lieu.

These data are on the principal offence basis. The figures given in the table on court proceedings relate to persons for whom these offences were the principal offence for which they were dealt with. When a defendant has been found guilty of two or more offences, the offence selected is the one for which the heaviest penalty is imposed. Where the same disposal is imposed for two or more offences, the offence selected is the offence for which the statutory maximum penalty is the most severe.

Court proceedings data for 2008 will be available in the autumn of 2009.

The number of defendants proceeded against at magistrates courts, heard at magistrates courts and committed for trial at the Crown Court, for all offences in Cumbria Police Force Area, 1997 to 2007[1,2] *of which:*

	Proceeded against	*Heard at Magistrates courts*[3]	*Committed for trial at the Crown Court*
1997	21,167	20,500	667
1998	20,275	19,647	628
1999	19,842	19,215	627
2000	17,074	16,477	597
2001	14,653	13,972	681
2002	14,409	13,733	676
2003	18,923	18,282	641
2004	19,151	18,488	663
2005	18,251	17,504	747

The number of defendants proceeded against at magistrates courts, heard at magistrates courts and committed for trial at the Crown Court, for all offences in Cumbria Police Force Area, 1997 to 2007[1,2] of which:

	Proceeded against	Heard at Magistrates courts[3]	Committed for trial at the Crown Court
2006	18,110	17,485	625
2007	17,7.95	17,079	716

1. These data are on the principal offence basis.
2. Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts, and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.
3. Includes proceeding discontinued, discharged, withdrawn, dismissed, and found guilty at the magistrates' courts.

Source:

OCJR—E&A: Office for Criminal Justice Reform—Evidence & Analysis Unit
Our ref: PQ 264072 (Table).

Magistrates Courts: Hertfordshire

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) what estimate he has made of the number of magistrates needed in order to meet the needs of the courts in *(a)* Hemel Hempstead and *(b)* Hertfordshire in 2009; [265812]

(2) how many serving magistrates there are in *(a)* Hemel Hempstead and *(b)* Hertfordshire. [265813]

Mr. Straw: In the current year 508 magistrates are needed fully to meet the needs of Hertfordshire, which includes the area of Hemel Hempstead. Currently there are 477 magistrates in Hertfordshire, the recruitment of the additional 31 is in progress.

Magistrates Courts: Northern Ireland

Sammy Wilson: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) what the annual running costs were of Larne Magistrates Court in each of the last five years; [265160]

(2) how many people have been employed by the Northern Ireland Courts Service to work in Larne Magistrates Court in each of the last five years; [265161]

(3) how many cases have been brought before the small claims court in Larne in each of the last five years. [265162]

Bridget Prentice: The running costs for Larne magistrates court in each of the last five years are shown in the following table.

Larne magistrates court

Year ended 31 March	*Running costs (£)*
2004	67,389
2005	106,898
2006	88,645
2007	85,774
2008	75,363

Note:

Running costs comprise items such as contracted security services, buildings maintenance, rates, electricity, fuel and supplies.

The NI Court Service usually employs two members of staff to work at Larne courthouse.

The following table sets out the number of small claims cases listed at Larne courthouse in each of the last five years:

	Number of small claims cases
2004	29
2005	21
2006	18
2007	30
2008[1]	24

[1] January to November. Provisional figures—full year validated figures are not yet available.

Sammy Wilson: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the running costs of Strabane Magistrates Court have been in each of the last five years. [265163]

Bridget Prentice: The running costs for Strabane magistrates court in each of the last five years are set out in the following table.

Strabane magistrates court

Year ended 31 March	*Running costs (£)*
2004	171,705
2005	193,464
2006	184,385
2007	169,453
2008	167,047

Note:

Running costs comprise items such as contracted security services, buildings maintenance, rates, electricity, fuel and supplies.

Members: Correspondence

Sir Michael Spicer: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice when he plans to reply to the letter from the hon. Member for West Worcestershire, dated 29 January 2009, transferred from the Department of Health on 12 February 2009, on reform of the suicide law. [265574]

Bridget Prentice: The Under-Secretary of State for Justice, my hon. Friend the Member for Liverpool, Garston (Maria Eagle) replied to the hon. Member on 4 March 2009. I have arranged for a further copy of this reply to be sent to the hon. Member.

National Offender Management Service

Mr. Grieve: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the meaning is of the reference to reduced scope of proposed plans on page 36 of the NOMS Strategic and Business Plans 2009-10 to 2010-11. [264638]

Mr. Straw: NOMS reviewed its forward spending plans for the period to 2010-11 as part of a prudent efficiency programme. As a result, it was possible to reduce planned future spending in certain areas, freeing resources for other essential front line work with offenders.

Specifically, wider economic changes allowed lower assumptions for funding non-recoverable VAT and inflation increases. In addition:

> Probation Services are working to accommodate volume growth within available budgets for the SR period. The overall reduction in probation budgets next year is 2.2 per cent. which has to be seen in the context of sustained investment in probation — budgets have increased by almost 70 per cent. in real terms since 1997.
>
> Non-essential maintenance work in prisons was deferred.
>
> Plans to refurbish some mothballed cells were cancelled because current and ongoing investment in the prison estate is bringing

supply and demand better into balance, delivering more fit-for-purpose accommodation and represents a much better value-for-money approach. The capacity programme is on target to increase total prison capacity to 96,000 places by 2014.

Prison Sentences

Mr. Denis Murphy: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many *(a)* male and *(b)* female prisoners are serving an indeterminate sentence of imprisonment for public protection in each prison in England and Wales. [265165]

Mr. Hanson: The following tables give the numbers of *(a)* male and *(b)* female prisoners in each prison establishment in England and Wales who were serving an indeterminate sentence of imprisonment for public protection on 20 February 2008. The tables also note the number of these offenders currently located in psychiatric hospitals, and include offenders who, as under 18s, were sentenced to detention for public protection.

These figures have been drawn from the NOMS IPP database, and, as with any large scale recording system, are subject to possible errors with data entry and processing.

Establishment	*Male IPPs/DPPs*
Acklington	106
Albany	163
Altcourse	57
Ashfield	4
Ashwell	29
Aylesbury	103
Bedford	8
Belmarsh	30
Birmingham	57
Blundeston	37
Brinsford	14
Bristol	17
Brixton	32
Buckley Hall	17
Bullingdon	98
Camp Hill	17
Cardiff	35
Castington	21
Channings Wood	47
Chelmsford	18
Coldingley	48
Cookham Wood	3
Dartmoor	45
Deerbolt	1
Doncaster	12
Dorchester	6
Dovegate	128
Durham	17
Edmunds Hill	1
Elmley	55
Erlestoke	56
Everthorpe	32
Exeter	18
Featherstone	51
Feltham	7
Ford	3
Forest Bank	41
Frankland	88
Full Sutton	44
Garth	191
Gartree	61
Glen Parva	7
Gloucester	10
Grendon	24
Guys Marsh	32
Haverigg	30
Hewell	28
High Down	19
Highpoint	27
Hindley	50
Hollesley Bay	1
Holme House	61
Hull	78
Huntercombe	2
Kennet	7
Kingston	12
Kirkham	7
Lancaster Castle	3
Lancaster Farms	21
Latchmere House	1
Leeds	32
Leicester	7
Lewes	22
Leyhill	2
Lincoln	8
Lindholme	51
Littlehey	52
Liverpool	54
Long Lartin	58
Lowdham Grange	145
Maidstone	13
Manchester	111
Moorland	86
Mount	80
North Sea Camp	1
Norwich	11
Nottingham	24
Onley	20
Parc	65
Parkhurst	140
Pentonville	45
Peterborough	25
Portland	16
Prescoed	2
Preston	19
Ranby	49
Reading	11
Risley	90
Rochester	6
Rye Hill	146
Shepton Mallett	11
Shrewsbury	6
Springhill	1
Stafford	65
Standford Hill	7
Stocken	75
Stoke Heath	2
Sudbury	4
Swaleside	215
Swansea	5
Swinfen Hall	179
Usk	44
Verne	12
Wakefield	35

Establishment	*Male IPPs/DPPs*
Wandsworth	95
Warren Hill	9
Wayland	96
Wealstun	32
Wellingborough	47
Werrington	1
Wetherby	14
Whatton	115
Whitemoor	45
Winchester	15
Wolds	38
Woodhill	33
Wormwood Scrubs	13
Wymott	59
Subtotal	4,902
Psychiatric hospitals (various)	78
Total	4980

Establishment	*Number of female IPPs/DPPs*
Askham Grange	3
Bronzefield	2
Downview	14
Drake Hall	3
Eastwood Park	4
Foston Hall	4
Holloway	19
Low Newton	22
New Hall	17
Peterborough	5
Send	22
Styal	10
Subtotal	125
Psychiatric hospitals (various)	15
Total	140

Prisoners Release

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many custodial sentences which terminated in each of the last five years had been reduced by virtue of the time spent by the convict on curfew while on remand. [265317]

Mr. Malik: The provisions allowing credit towards custodial sentences for periods of remand on bail while subject to an electronically monitored curfew were not implemented until 3 November 2008. There are no statistics in relation to the number of custodial sentences that have attracted curfew credit from which release has taken place since the implementation of the provisions.

Prisoners: Ex-servicemen

Mr. Garnier: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many prisons have a dedicated identification and support system for prisoners who have previously served in the armed forces; and what forms such systems take in each prison. [265701]

Mr. Hanson: There is currently no national dedicated identification system for ex-servicemen held in custody, although there are areas of good practice, such as in the case of Everthorpe prison. This will change with the introduction of P—NOMIS IT system which contains specific data entry field for ex-service offenders and trials are underway. In the meantime, the offender assessment system (OASys) prompts an offender supervisor/manager to review an offender's employment history, including military, and work related skills.

In terms of support systems in place, as part of the Veterans Prison In Reach initiative we are running an extensive cross departmental information campaign aimed at staff, offenders and their families on services available in conjunction with the ex-service charities. We also plan to conduct research to accurately assess the number of veterans in prison to better provide for their needs.

The Royal British Legion and Action for Prisoners' Families are working together in conjunction with the Ministry of Justice to ensure that the families of offenders are made more aware of the help available to them and this is going to be a priority throughout 2009.

Prisoners: Pregnancy

Sandra Gidley: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many pregnant women in each age group spent time in prison under sentence in each of the last 10 years. [264917]

Mr. Hanson: The Prison Service has only routinely kept information centrally on pregnant women in custody since April 2004.

Before November 2006 data were collected differently and information for April 2004 to October 2006 could be given only at disproportionate cost.

The number of pregnant women in each age group who have spent time in prison under sentence are as follows:

Date	*Pregnant under 18 sentenced*	*Pregnant 18-21 sentenced*	*Pregnant over 21 sentenced*
November 2006-March 2007	0	34	139
April 2007-March 2008	6	96	371
April 2008-February 2009	5	100	340

Deciding what sentences are appropriate for women offenders is rightly entirely a matter for the courts, but the Government agree that more must be done to ensure that custody is only used for those women who really need to be there.

The Government are keen to encourage greater use of community alternatives for women offenders wherever possible. We are committed to looking specifically at how to tackle women's offending and addressing the adverse impact of imprisonment on women and their families, particularly their children.

Women in prison have a right to the same medical provision as women in the community and do not give birth in prison as a matter of course.

Prison Service Orders make specific provision for the needs of women prisoners who are pregnant or have young children with them in prison.

Prisoners: Women

Sandra Gidley: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many women in each age group spent time in prison under sentence in each of the last 10 years. [264950]

Mr. Hanson: The following table shows the numbers of women prisoners held under sentence in all prison establishments in England and Wales as at 30 June in each year from 1997 to 2007:

Females	*1997*	*1998*	*1999*	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*
All ages	2,066	2,367	2,436	2,666	2,899	3,339	3,477	3,453	3,477	3,512	3,351
15-17	53	62	67	65	64	103	57	58	56	50	56
18-20	165	210	224	265	310	356	305	300	269	272	280
21-24	377	425	427	458	480	596	670	632	612	552	475
25-29	457	501	491	563	588	662	702	727	679	708	662
30-39	627	709	798	862	907	1,030	1,100	1,056	1,072	1,094	1,014
40-49	278	332	301	335	409	439	492	507	586	606	612
50-59	92	116	108	102	121	134	123	152	179	189	203
60 and over	17	12	20	16	19	19	28	20	24	40	49

Small numbers of prisoners held in default of payment of a fine (e.g. six overall in June 2007) are included in these figures.

These figures are taken from table 7.3 in the Offender Management Caseload Statistics 2007, a copy of which can be found in the House of Commons Library, and which can also be found at the following website:

http://www.justice.gov.uk/publications/prisonandprobation.htm

These figures have been drawn from administrative IT systems, which, as with any large scale recording system, are subject to possible errors with data entry and processing.

Prisons: Standards

Mr. Garnier: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many prison buildings have been assessed as non-compliant with the Disability Discrimination Act 2005 in each year since it entered into force. [265704]

Mr. Malik: No prison buildings have actually been assessed as non-compliant with the DDA. All new prisons constructed after the introduction of the DDA have been commissioned to be DDA compliant. However, we are aware that a number of prisons, being of Victorian or older design, offer some difficulties to prisoners with severe mobility issues. The policy is that prisoners with such difficulties should not be allocated to prisons which cannot provide the appropriate reasonable adjustments.

There is a process called the access survey which assesses what difficulties might be encountered with physical access to buildings and the work that is needed to address these difficulties. However, this information is used practically to inform local improvement work and is not collated centrally. It does not constitute an assessment of compliance with the DDA.

Repossession Orders

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many court orders have been issued for the repossession of homes in *(a)* England, *(b)* the North East, *(c)* Tees Valley district and *(d)* Middlesbrough South and East Cleveland constituency in the last 12 months. [265335]

Bridget Prentice: Figures for Middlesbrough, South and East Cleveland constituency and Tees Valley are not available. However, the following table shows the number of possession orders made in England, Her Majesty's Courts Service north east region and Teesside county court for each month in 2008.

The civil procedure rules state that all claims for the repossession of land must be commenced in the district in which the land is situated. However, geographical boundaries of county courts may not necessarily be consistent with other administrative or constituency boundaries. Repossession orders made at Teesside county court may therefore relate to properties in other areas besides Middlesbrough, South and East Cleveland constituency and Tees Valley.

These figures do not indicate how many homes have actually been repossessed. Repossessions can occur without a court order being made while not all court orders result in repossession.

Number of mortgage[1] and landlord[2, 3] possession orders made[4, 5] in Teesside county court, HMCS north east region and England by each month[6], 2008

	Mortgage possession orders made			*Landlord possession orders made*		
	Teesside county court	*HMCS north east*	*England*	*Teesside county court*	*HMCS north east*	*England*
January 2008	125	1,411	9,371	86	1,521	10,419
February 2008	104	1,169	7,832	53	1,098	8,361
March 2008	82	1,315	7,902	68	1,163	8,239
April 2008	130	1,731	10,041	72	1,399	9,986
May 2008	126	1,325	8,602	48	1,023	7,796
June 2008	129	1,538	9,598	54	1,287	9,075
July 2008	130	1,676	9,527	77	1,270	9,323

Number of mortgage[1] and landlord[2, 3] possession orders made[4, 5] in Teesside county court, HMCS north east region and England by each month[6], 2008

	Mortgage possession orders made			Landlord possession orders made		
	Teesside county court	HMCS north east	England	Teesside county court	HMCS north east	England
August 2008	119	1,397	8,556	68	1,113	8,511
September 2008	111	1,604	9,681	59	1,096	9,144
October 2008	145	1,619	9,930	73	1,320	9,485
November 2008	79	1,401	8,133	70	1,183	8,773
December 2008	111	1,337	7,418	70	1,106	7,821
2008	1,391	17,522	106,590	798	14,579	106,934

[1] Includes all types of mortgage lenders.

[2] Includes all types of landlord whether social or private.

[3] Landlord actions include those made under both standard and accelerated procedures. Landlord actions via the accelerated procedure enables the orders to be made solely on the basis of written evidence for shorthold tenancies, when the fixed period of tenancy has come to an end.

[4] The court, following a judicial hearing, may grant an order for possession immediately. This entitles the claimant to apply for a warrant to have the defendant evicted. However, even where a warrant for possession is issued, the parties can still negotiate a compromise to prevent eviction.

[5] Includes outright and suspended orders, the latter being where the court grants the claimant possession but suspends the operation of the order. Provided the defendant complies with the terms of suspension, which usually require the defendant to pay the current mortgage or rent instalments plus some of the accrued arrears, the possession order cannot be enforced.

[6] Figures for the latest quarter (October to December 2008) are provisional.

Source:
Ministry of Justice

Victim Support Schemes

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what recent steps his Department has taken to improve the services provided to victims of crime. [265337]

Mr. Malik: The Government have a comprehensive strategy to help victims of crime access appropriate services. We recently appointed a Victims Champion who will listen to the views of victims and the community and make recommendations on how to improve the system.

Since introducing a statutory code of practice for victims of crime which established minimum rights for victims, we continue to embed best practice across the CJS agencies. This includes working with Local Criminal Justice Boards to ensure they have comprehensive victim and witness strategies that make a difference on the ground.

We recognise the importance of working with third-sector organisations to deliver direct services for victims. We recently provided additional funding for the national organisation Victim Support to introduce an improved business process, so that victims can be contacted more quickly, have their needs assessed and offered a wider range of practical services than was previously available.

The Government have invested further resources into specialist services for victims. This includes sexual assault referral centres, independent domestic violence and sexual violence advisors and national and local specialist third-sector organisations. We have also made legal changes that will impact on certain victims; for example we ratified the Council of Europe convention on action against the trafficking in human beings, creating minimum protection rights.

The recently published Youth Crime Action Plan sets out how we will improve support for young victims of crime. The plan has been developed jointly between the Office for Criminal Justice Reform, Ministry of Justice, the Department for Children Schools and Families and the Home Office.

The Criminal Injuries Compensation Authority's major reform programme completely overhauled the case working processes. This included the introduction of geographically based teams; a new in-house telephone support service and the development of a new case working model placing greater emphasis on applicant support and focusing resources at the front end of the case-working process.

Wymott Prison: Protest

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what reports he has received of the rooftop protest at HM Prison Wymott on 25 February; how many such protests have taken place at HM Prison Wymott in each of the last three years; and if he will make a statement. [263026]

Mr. Hanson: For the incident on 25 February I was informed on the same day that it had taken place and was ongoing, and then informed it had ended. For other incidents I am always informed about 'incidents at height', whether inside the establishment or on a rooftop. The seriousness of the incident determines how quickly I am informed. There have been two further rooftop incidents at Wymott since 1 January 2006. These took place on 28 June 2007 and 6 October 2008. Measures are in place to further restrict access to the roof. All three prisoners involved in the incidents are subject to disciplinary procedures.

Young Offenders: Crime Prevention

James Brokenshire: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what pilot projects are being undertaken by his Department to deter young people from entering the criminal justice system; and what *(a)* the cost to date and *(b)* current status is of each project. [263190]

Beverley Hughes: I have been asked to reply.

The Youth Crime Action Plan (YCAP), published in July 2008, set out the Government's plans for tackling offending by young people. It detailed our plans for a 'triple track' approach of tough enforcement, non-negotiable help and support, and early intervention and prevention. It also states our ambition to reduce the rate of young people entering the criminal justice system by one fifth by 2020. This is supported by close to £100 million over the next three years, in addition to the existing investment in children's and youth services, to support local authorities in making inroads into youth crime locally.

In 2008-09, under YCAP, 69 local authorities each received £65,000 to implement a selection of measures set out in the YCAP. These were: Operation Staysafe; Street Based teams; After-Schools patrols; YOT Workers in Custody Suites; Reparation in Leisure Time; YCAP Family Intervention Projects and Think Family.

As further support, in the current year, funding amounting to £6.5 million has been targeted in 15 local authority areas of high gun, knife, gang and violent crime to help prevent young people becoming engaged in this sort of activity and to prevent poor outcomes in general.

In addition, the Youth Justice Board are investing £32 million this year to deliver targeted prevention programmes such as youth inclusion programmes (YIPs), youth inclusion and support panels (YISPs) and parenting programmes.

All of these programmes build on the significant investment committed to other wider prevention programmes which make a contribution to preventing young people's involvement in criminal activity in deprived areas. Key examples of this are the work done to help young people take part in structured positive activities and to improve facilities in deprived areas through the Positive Activities for Young People and Myplace programmes and additional parenting support such as the Parenting Early Intervention programme, family intervention projects and expert parenting practitioners.

Young Offenders: Sentencing

Paul Holmes: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many and what proportion of sentences handed down to *(a)* juveniles and *(b)* young adults of each sex from (i) magistrates courts and (ii) crown courts were custodial sentences in each year since 1993; and if he will make a statement. [264750]

Mr. Hanson: The available information is shown in the table. Some of the figures can also be found in Table 1.5 of 'Sentencing Statistics 2007', available at:

http://www.justice.gov.uk/publications/sentencingannual.htm

Number of persons given custodial sentences[1] by gender, court type and age band, 1993 to 2007

		Male		*Female*	
		Magistrates court	*Crown court*	*Magistrates court*	*Crown court*
1993	*Sentenced*				
	Juveniles	48,101	2,102	4,964	148
	Young Adults	126,246	12,261	15,588	751
	Custodial sentences				
	Juveniles	3,051	1,058	69	45
	Young Adults	4,860	6,130	162	183
	Proportion (%)				
	Juveniles	6.3	50.3	1.4	30.4
	Young Adults	3.8	50.0	1.0	24.4
1994	*Sentenced*				
	Juveniles	53,432	2,079	6,320	163
	Young Adults	121,483	11,520	15,126	648
	Custodial sentences				
	Juveniles	3,396	1,165	103	55
	Young Adults	5,849	6,270	202	171
	Proportion (%)				
	Juveniles	6.4	56.0	1.6	33.7
	Young Adults	4.8	54.4	1.3	26.4
1995	*Sentenced*				
	Juveniles	57,839	2,767	6,996	198
	Young persons	119,712	11,637	15,392	742
	Custodial sentences				
	Juveniles	3,680	1,604	114	66
	Young Adults	6,524	6,752	238	225
	Proportion (%)				
	Juveniles	6.4	58.0	1.6	33.3
	Young Adults	5.4	58.0	1.5	30.3
1996	*Sentenced*				
	Juveniles	62,792	3,641	7,901	263
	Young Adults	122,891	11,665	16,925	817

Number of persons given custodial sentences[1] by gender, court type and age band, 1993 to 2007

		Male		Female	
		Magistrates court	Crown court	Magistrates court	Crown court
	Custodial sentences				
	Juveniles	3,973	2,300	129	95
	Young Adults	6,783	7,422	267	278
	Proportion (%)				
	Juveniles	6.3	63.2	1.6	36.1
	Young Adults	5.5	63.6	1.6	34.0
1997	*Sentenced*				
	Juveniles	65,127	4,520	9,043	402
	Young Adults	126,496	12,633	16,352	978
	Custodial sentences				
	Juveniles	3,963	2,812	166	142
	Young Adults	7,272	7,871	341	301
	Proportion (%)				
	Juveniles	6.1	62.2	1.8	35.3
	Young Adults	5.7	62.3	2.1	30.8
1998	*Sentenced*				
	Juveniles	71,075	4,421	10,445	353
	Young Adults	135,054	12,814	18,256	998
	Custodial sentences				
	Juveniles	4,294	2,587	221	115
	Young Adults	8,191	7,961	489	362
	Proportion (%)				
	Juveniles	6.0	58.5	2.1	32.6
	Young Adults	6.1	62.1	2.7	36.3
1999	*Sentenced*				
	Juveniles	74,856	4,406	10,543	355
	Young Adults	134,660	12,343	17,392	1,017
	Custodial sentences				
	Juveniles	4,654	2,590	275	134
	Young Adults	9,166	7,882	579	384
	Proportion (%)				
	Juveniles	6.2	58.8	2.6	37.7
	Young Adults	6.8	63.9	3.3	37.8
2000	*Sentenced*				
	Juveniles	76,863	3,707	10,561	349
	Young Adults	130,703	12,121	18,202	1,064
	Custodial sentences				
	Juveniles	4,811	2,157	324	122
	Young Adults	9,597	7,727	700	417
	Proportion (%)				
	Juveniles	6.3	58.2	3.1	35.0
	Young Adults	7.3	63.7	3.8	39.2
2001	*Sentenced*				
	Juveniles	81,020	3,067	11,063	335
	Young Adults	128,085	11,834	16,975	1,013
	Custodial sentences				
	Juveniles	5,440	1,707	329	120
	Young Adults	9,391	7,491	673	393

Number of persons given custodial sentences[1] by gender, court type and age band, 1993 to 2007

		Male		Female	
		Magistrates court	Crown court	Magistrates court	Crown court
	Proportion (%)				
	Juveniles	6.7	55.7	3.0	35.8
	Young Adults	7.3	63.3	4.0	38.8
2002	*Sentenced*				
	Juveniles	79,790	3,394	10,895	466
	Young Adults	128,871	12,043	17,394	1,076
	Custodial sentences				
	Juveniles	4,910	1,976	340	190
	Young Adults	8,770	7,520	622	451
	Proportion (%)				
	Juveniles	6.2	58.2	3.1	40.8
	Young Adults	6.8	62.4	3.6	41.9
2003	*Sentenced*				
	Juveniles	78,292	2,546	11,339	354
	Young Adults	132,064	11,301	17,687	1,013
	Custodial sentences				
	Juveniles	4,362	1,414	287	137
	Young Adults	7,834	6,611	596	377
	Proportion (%)				
	Juveniles	5.6	55.5	2.5	38.7
	Young Adults	5.9	58.5	3.4	37.1
2004	*Sentenced*				
	Juveniles	80,672	2,741	12,476	299
	Young Adults	126,530	11,202	17,624	1,043
	Custodial sentences				
	Juveniles	4,326	1,555	339	105
	Young Adults	7,171	6,646	478	341
	Proportion (%)				
	Juveniles	5.4	56.7	2.7	35.1
	Young Adults	5.7	59.3	2.7	32.7
2005	*Sentenced*				
	Juveniles	80,087	2,378	13,420	318
	Young Adults	116,149	11,153	17,700	1,040
	Custodial sentences				
	Juveniles	4,089	1,426	375	128
	Young Adults	7,234	6,684	540	411
	Proportion (%)				
	Juveniles	5.1	60.0	2.8	40.3
	Young Adults	6.2	59.9	3.0	39.5
2006	*Sentenced*				
	Juveniles	77,766	2,370	13,437	233
	Young Adults	111,825	11,835	17,989	1,045
	Custodial sentences				
	Juveniles	4,209	1,521	363	90
	Young Adults	8,971	7,815	762	536
	Proportion (%)				
	Juveniles	5.4	64.2	2.7	38.6
	Young Adults	8.0	66.0	4.2	51.3

Number of persons given custodial sentences¹ by gender, court type and age band, 1997 to 2007

		Male		Female	
		Magistrates court	*Crown court*	*Magistrates court*	*Crown court*
2007	*Sentenced*				
	Juveniles	80,153	2,466	14,494	274
	Young Adults	107,921	12,849	18,507	999
	Custodial sentences				
	Juveniles	3,865	1,497	340	129
	Young Adults	8,973	9,111	752	962
	Proportion (%)				
	Juveniles	4.8	60.7	2.3	47.1
	Young Adults	8.3	70.9	4.1	96.3

¹ custodial sentences include suspended sentences and fully suspended sentences.
A new suspended sentence order introduced by the Criminal Justice Act 2003 came into force on 4 April 2005 and replaces the previous fully suspended sentences. Suspended sentences apply only to persons aged 18 and over.
Notes:
The statistics given are on a principal offence basis. When a defendant has been found guilty of two or more offences the principal offence is the offence for which the heaviest penalty is imposed. Where the same disposal is imposed for two or more offences, the offence selected is the offence for which the statutory maximum penalty is the most severe.
These figures have been drawn from administrative data systems.
Although care is taken when processing and analysing the returns, the detail collected is subject to the inaccuracies inherent in any large scale recording system.
Source:
OMS Analytical Services, Ministry of Justice

Young People: Remand in Custody

Mr. Kidney: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many juveniles were detained overnight in police cells in the last year for which figures are available. [264090]

Mr. Hanson: I refer my hon. Friend to the reply I gave him on 23 February 2009, *Official Report*, column 361W.

ENERGY AND CLIMATE CHANGE

Lighting: Health Hazards

Mr. Ancram: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change whether he has received reports on potential *(a)* health and *(b)* other hazards caused by environmentally-friendly light bulbs. [265442]

Dawn Primarolo: I have been asked to reply.

Some support groups for people with certain light sensitive skin, autoimmune and neurological conditions have raised concerns that some low energy light bulbs, particularly compact fluorescent lamps (CFLs), could aggravate light sensitivity symptoms.

The Health Protection Agency (HPA) advises the Department on scientific matters concerning optical radiation including low energy light bulbs. The HPA tested a sample of CFL light bulbs and found that some emitted ultraviolet radiation which could, under certain conditions, expose people above international guidelines. As a result of its findings the HPA issued precautionary advice on 9 October 2008 to the general public concerning the use of open CFLs in close-working situations. The HPA's advice can be found at:

(www.hpa.org.uk/webw/HPAweb&HPAwebStandard/HPAweb_C/1223445516605?p=1153822623869

The HPA's research was considered alongside other available evidence to inform a report by the European Commission's Scientific Committee on Emerging and Newly Identified Health Risks (SCENIHR). SCENIHR's Opinion on light sensitivity can be found at:

http://ec.europa.eu/health/ph_risk/committees/04_scenihr/scenihr_opinions_en.htm

Nowadays CFLs each contain up to around four milligrams of mercury. The HPA advise that the mercury cannot escape from an intact lamp and, even if the lamp should be broken, the very small amount of mercury contained in a single, modern CFL is most unlikely to cause any harm. The HPA's advice on disposal of CFLs can be found at:

www.hpa.org.uk/webw/HPAweb&HPAwebStandard/HPAweb_C/1207293983993?p=1158313435037

The Department is continuing to work with patient groups, clinicians and the lighting industry to keep the health issues under review.

Tree Felling: Indonesia and Brazil

Simon Hughes: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what recent steps he has taken to assist the government of *(a)* Indonesia and *(b)* Brazil to reduce levels of deforestation in those countries. [266027]

Joan Ruddock: We are working closely with Indonesia and Brazil to include forestry in a future climate change agreement and were pleased with their association with the Poznan Forestry Statement that pledged early action on reducing emissions from deforestation and degradation. More specifically:

(a) A new Memorandum of Understanding was signed with Indonesia in late 2008 for co-operation on Climate Change and the Environment, renewing earlier commitments to work together to address deforestation. The first Working Group meeting is expected to take place in London in early summer. The UK has long supported action to improve forest governance through the work of the Department for International Development's Multi-stakeholder Forestry Programme and work to address demand side measures. The UK is working within the EU to negotiate an Indonesia-EU Forest Law Enforcement, Governance and Trade (FLEGT) Partnership Agreement.

The UK is also providing expertise to help the Government of Indonesia prepare for the UN climate negotiations in Copenhagen in December. The support includes the appointment of a specialist assigned to the British embassy to assist with climate change work, including Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Degradation (REDD).

(b) Co-operation with Brazil on forestry issues takes place through the Working Group on Climate Change and the High Level Dialogue on Sustainable Development through which we are supporting a number of projects. The next Working Group meetings are expected to take place in Brazil in mid-March 2009.

Of particular note is scientific co-operation on the development of joint UK-Brazil satellite monitoring, beginning with the announcement of the Amazonia-I satellite and camera to be launched in 2011. DEFRA has funded a workshop in Brazil for UK and Brazilian satellite monitoring experts to further develop this co-operation. DEFRA is also supporting the development of state level plans to combat deforestation in the Amazon, working closely with the Brazilian Ministry of the Environment.

Last year Brazil also launched a new fund aimed at supporting sustainable development of the forest called the Amazon Fund. The Department for International Development is providing support to the Brazilian National Development Bank (BNDES) on the management of this fund.

Warm Front Scheme

Greg Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change which external consultant he has appointed to review his Department's management of its contract with Eaga for the provision of the Warm Front scheme. [illegible]

Joan Ruddock: The Department has appointed Procuritas to carry out this work with eaga plc.

Warm Front Scheme: Complaints

Greg Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what steps his Department takes to monitor complaints about the operation of the Warm Front scheme. [illegible]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: Eaga, which manages the scheme on DECC's behalf, records and classifies all complaints received about Warm Front.

DECC independently monitors complaints made directly to the Department, and also uses the independent quality assessor: White Young Green, to perform regular surveys of customer experiences.

The National Audit Office recently reported that complaints to the scheme have remained relatively static with 0.5 per cent. of cases upheld or five in every 1,000, while the overall customer satisfaction rate was quoted at 86 per cent. with 6 per cent. of customers dissatisfied.

TREASURY

Cheques

Mr. Burstow: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what recent discussions he has had with representatives of the banking industry on the time taken for clearance of cheques; and if he will make a statement. [265745]

Ian Pearson: The Payment Systems Task Force, chaired by the Office of Fair Trading, was established in 2004 to resolve competition, efficiency and incentive issues in UK payment systems. It comprised banking industry, retail, consumer and Government representatives.

On 14 November 2006 the task force announced significant changes to speed up the slowest clearers of cheques in the UK. From November 2007, customers have been guaranteed that after paying a cheque into a bank or building society they will be able to start earning interest no later than two working days; to be able to withdraw against the cheque no later than four working days after it is deposited into a current account or six if deposited into a savings account.

Mr. Wallace: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether he plans to review the provisions of the Bills of Exchange Act 1882 and the Cheques Acts of 1957 and 1992 in respect of the use of cheques as a method of payment. [265824]

Ian Pearson: With respect to the use of cheques as a method of payment, the Government have no current plans to review the above-mentioned Acts.

Departmental Foreign Workers

David Simpson: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many *(a)* EU foreign nationals and *(b)* non-EU foreign nationals are employed by his Department. [256198]

Angela Eagle: The Treasury currently employs 29 EU foreign nationals and 14 non-EU foreign nationals. All HMT appointments are carried out in line with our selection processes and procedures and taking into account current employment legislation.

EU Grants and Loans

Andrew George: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what plans he has to ensure that *(a)* European Regional Development Fund and *(b)* other European grant aid programmes are used to greatest effect in (i) the UK and (ii) the region of Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly. [265381]

Angela Eagle: Maximising the use of European Structural Funds is a matter for the managing authorities responsible for each programme. For the UK, the managing authorities for European Regional Development Funds and European Social Funds are Communities and Local Government and the Department for Work and Pensions respectively in England, and the devolved Administrations in Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland.

European Investment Bank

Gregory Barker: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer which body is responsible for supervising and directing the activities of the European Investment Bank; what the financial obligations are of the participant nations; and whether the necessary financial contributions have been made by each participant nation. [265221]

Ian Pearson: The bank's main independent decision-making bodies are the Board of Governors (usually the Finance Ministers of the member states) and the Board of Directors (28 members representing each member state and the European Commission). The EIB is internally governed by the Management Committee (the President of the EIB and eight Vice Presidents) and the Audit Committee (three members and three observers appointed by the Board of Governors).

Further information on the EIB's finances and the capital contributions of member states can be found at:

http://www/eib.org

Expert Liaison Group

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will place in the Library a copy of the minutes of each meeting of the Expert Liaison Group. [264639]

Ian Pearson *[holding answer 19 March 2009]:* The Expert Liaison Group (ELG) is a consultative group that was set up by the Economic Secretary on 9 October 2008 to work with the Government to help prepare secondary legislation for the special resolution regime (SRR) and keep SRR powers and regulations under review, as practices in the financial markets develop over time.

I committed in the House of Parliament on 18 November that the Government will ask the Banking Liaison Panel whether a summary of their minutes will be made available. Following this, at the meeting of 15 December the Expert Liaison Group agreed to summaries of their meetings being available. On this basis a formal summary of the meetings of the ELG that took place on 15 December and 23 January will be published on HM Treasury's website.

The Banking Liaison Panel (BLP) is the statutory replacement for the ELG and following its first meeting, the Government will make a statement on how it will communicate the work of the BLP. In addition the Government have already committed to publishing a response to the consultation replies to HM Treasury's consultation document on safeguards for partial transfers published on 6 November 2008.

Fossil Fuels: Government Assistance

Gregory Barker: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what fiscal incentives are available for fossil fuel production and investment. [265223]

Angela Eagle: The North sea fiscal regime, which acts to ensure a fair return for the UK taxpayer by imposing a higher tax rate on the profits derived from oil and gas production, also contains a number of incentives for investment in the oil and gas sector. Certain types of fossil fuel investment expenditure are also eligible for mineral extraction allowances.

Land: Prices

Grant Shapps: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate the Valuation Office Agency made of the average value of a hectare of land in each of the last 20 quarters. [265087]

Mr. Timms: During the last five years the VOA has published twice yearly the VOA Property Market Report. The report gives opinions of value each year, as at 1 January and 1 July, for agricultural land, and for land for development for residential and industrial use.

The reports for this period are available to view on the VOA website at:

www.voa.gov.uk/publications

Members: Correspondence

Sir Gerald Kaufman: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer when he plans to reply to the letter of 28 January 2009 from the right hon. Member for Manchester, Gorton, with regard to Ms Agnes Kaddedu-Gedeun. [266366]

Ian Pearson: A reply has been sent to the right hon. Member.

National Insurance Contributions

Mr. Austin Mitchell: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will estimate the amount of additional revenue that would have been raised from *(a)* employees and *(b)* employers by abolishing the upper limit on the income assessed for national insurance contributions in 2008-09. [259376]

Mr. Timms: The yield from removing the upper earnings limit for employees Class 1 National Insurance contributions would be around £11 billion for 2009-10. This estimate also includes the yield from the consequent increase in the upper profit limit for Class 4 contributions paid by the self employed. There is no upper limit for employer contributions.

This figure excludes any estimate of behavioural effects which could be significant given the scale of the change. The estimate is consistent with pre-Budget report 2008 assumptions and assumes that the NHS allocation contribution rates are unchanged.

Pensions: Misrepresentation

Mark Williams: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether his Department has made an estimate of the number of people who have been mis-sold endowment policies but have not pursued the matter within the time limit; and if he will make a statement. [264923]

Ian Pearson: The Financial Ombudsman Service is responsible for assessing consumer complaints against financial services firms and awarding redress where appropriate. It is not possible to make an accurate assessment of the overall extent of mis-selling without considering the specific circumstances of individual cases.

Public Opinion

Mike Penning: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what expenditure *(a)* his Department, *(b)* its agencies and *(c)* its non-departmental public bodies have incurred in each year since 1997 on (i) opinion polling, (ii) focus groups and (iii) other forms of market research; what surveys were commissioned; and what the purpose of each was. [261354]

Angela Eagle: For information on independent reviews commissioned by the Treasury, I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave on 22 July 2008, *Official Report*, column 1392W, to the hon. Member for Fareham (Mr. Hoban). The Debt Management Office has no record of having undertaken any market research. The Office of Government Commerce does not hold a central record of market research and the information could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Revenue and Customs: Chorley

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many staff worked at HM Revenue and Customs office in Chorley in each of the last five years. [264075]

Mr. Timms: The headcount number of staff in post in the HM Revenue and Customs office at Chorley over the last five years, with the full-time equivalent (FTE) figure, was:

	Headcount	*Full-time equivalent*
1 April 2005	88	80.6
1 April 2006	84	77
1 April 2007	81	71.65
1 April 2008	78	69.49
1 March 2009	66	56.78

The 1 March 2009 figure given is the most up to date available.

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer for what reason the decision to keep open the HM Revenue and Customs office in Chorley was rescinded in February 2008. [264884]

Mr. Timms *[holding answer 20 March 2009]:* As part of the review of HMRC offices in the Blackpool/Preston urban centre HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) published a proposal to retain its office in Chorley in May 2007.

During the period of feasibility work after the proposals were published HMRC business units, including Local Compliance, revisited their plans for delivering their long-term operations and decided that they could operate more effectively by consolidating elsewhere. This work also showed that staff in Chorley could be more effectively accommodated in larger teams in other offices. The final decision to withdraw business operations, except Enquiry Centre services, from Chorley was announced in February 2008.

Revenue and Customs: Surveys

Grant Shapps: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much HM Revenue and Customs has spent on staff surveys in each of the last five years; and which organisation carried out each such survey. [265393]

Mr. Timms: HM Revenue and Customs has conducted eight surveys following its creation.

The cost breakdown by financial year excluding VAT is:

	£
2005-06	36,325
2006-07	88,497
2007-08	62,626
2008-09	92,452

From 2005-06 to 2007-08 the surveys were conducted twice yearly by HMRC. A sample of staff were surveyed in-house with an external research agency (BMRB) contracted to deliver the analysis and reporting of the survey.

In late 2008, ORC were appointed by the Cabinet Office as the external provider to deliver a civil service wide pilot survey across nine Government Departments which involved a census of HMRC staff.

Tax Credit

Steve Webb: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the answer of 22 January 2009, *Official Report*, columns 1638-39W, on tax credit, what estimate he has made of the number of claimants who would have their tax credit award reduced to zero in each scenario in each of the next six years. [265043]

Mr. Timms: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given to him on 23 February 2009, *Official Report*, column 332W.

Taxation: EU Action

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will have discussions with his EU counterparts on steps to ensure that products of the same type sold in EU member states are subject to the same tax treatment in all member states; and if he will make a statement. [265775]

Mr. Timms: Within the EU, the structure and rates of specific taxes are generally a matter for member states, consistent with the principle of subsidiarity. In relation to VAT, rules on some aspects of tax structure and minimum rates of taxation have been agreed by the Council of Ministers by unanimity with a view to ensuring the smooth functioning of the Single Market, in line with the provisions of article 93 of the treaty establishing the European Community. This includes the principle that the common system of VAT should, even if rates and exemptions are not fully harmonised, result in neutrality in competition, such that within the territory of each member state similar goods and services bear the same tax burden.

VAT: Children's Car Seats

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether he plans to review the rate of value added tax charged on plug-in children's car seats; and if he will make a statement. [265531]

Mr. Timms: Children's car seats, including plug-in car seats, have been subject to the reduced VAT rate of 5 per cent. since 12 May 2001. This is the lowest rate possible under EU VAT agreements, signed by successive Governments.

Children's car seat bases are subject to the standard rate of VAT. All taxes are kept under review and changes are announced as part of the normal Budget process.

INNOVATION, UNIVERSITIES AND SKILLS

Animal Experiments

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what funds his Department has allocated to research on and development of alternatives to animal testing since 1997. [263284]

Mr. Lammy: Between 2001 and 2007/08 the Biotechnology and Biological Sciences Research Council (BBSRC) and the Medical Research Council (MRC) provided £11,348,000 to support research into the replacement, refinement and reduction of animals in research through response mode funding and strategic programmes. Figures are not available prior to 2001. In addition, these Research Councils fund the National Centre for Replacement, Refinement and Reduction of Animals in Research (NC3Rs), established in 2004. Between 2004/05 and 2007/08 the NC3Rs received £5,525,000 from the Research Councils as well as £660,000 funding from the Home Office. The two Research Councils have allocated £12,804,000 to the NC3Rs for the period 2008/09 to 2010/11 and the Department has provided an additional direct grant of £100,000.

Departmental Billing

Mr. Oaten: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what percentage of invoices from suppliers his Department settled within 10 days of receipt in the last four months. [266246]

Mr. Simon: The percentage of invoices from suppliers settled by the Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills within 10-days of receipt, in the last four months, is shown in the following table.

	Percentage
November 2008	90
December 2008	96
January 2009	91
February 2009	96

Foreign Students: USA

Mr. Willetts: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills pursuant to the Answer of 11 March 2009, *Official Report*, columns 544-45W, on foreign students: USA, when the arrangements on grants for English-domiciled students travelling to the United States to study were introduced. [265053]

Mr. Lammy: The Education Act 1962 introduced the mandatory awards system for higher education. The University and Other Awards Regulations 1962 made under the Act gave local education authorities discretion to make payments

> "to cover expenditure necessarily incurred by an award holder on travel outside the United Kingdom, for the purpose of attending his university or establishment of further education or otherwise for the purposes of his studies".

Gifted Children: Higher Education

Mr. Willetts: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what proportion of young people identified as gifted and talented went on to higher education in the latest year for which figures are available. [264927]

Mr. Lammy: The Government remain committed to widening participation in higher education and to securing fair access for gifted and talented students. It is an economic as well as a social imperative that everyone who can benefit from higher education has the opportunity to do so. Widening participation is about spotting and nurturing talent, with schools, colleges and universities working together to ensure that all those with the potential and merit to benefit from higher education are able to do so.

The gifted and talented flag was not introduced into the National Pupil Database until 2006 and we do not yet have data on HE destinations that can be linked to this flag.

The National Academy for Gifted and Talented Youth (NAGTY) catered for the national top 5 per cent. of 11 to 19-year-olds from 2002 to 2007. It has now been replaced by the Young Gifted and Talented (YG and T) Learner Academy.

NAGTY's 2006 Student Exit Survey Questionnaire showed that, of those completing the questionnaire:

87 per cent. said they went straight on to continue their education at university

8 per cent. were taking a gap year before going into higher education.

Higher Education

Stephen Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills (1) which higher education institutions are in risk category *(a)* 1 and *(b)* 2; [261911]

(2) if he will publish his most recent risk assessments relating to institutions in the university sector. [261912]

Mr. Lammy: I refer the hon. member to the reply given on 16 March 2009, *Official Report*, column 905w.

Higher Education: Admissions

Mr. Willetts: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how many first-time male entrants to higher education first degree courses there were in each year since 1998. [264928]

Mr. Lammy: The latest available information is shown in the table. Figures refer to male entrants whose highest qualification on entry was below higher education level.

Although this excludes entrants who already hold a HE qualification, this does not exclude those who have attended HE in the past, but not received a qualification.

Male first-time[1] entrants[2] to first degree courses, UK higher education institutions, academic years 1998/99 to 2007/08

Academic year	*Male entrants*
1998/99	146,355
1999/2000	143,290
2000/01	141,515
2001/02	146,825
2002/03	152,360
2003/04	154,465
2004/05	152,395
2005/06	161,295
2006/07	155,275
2007/08	162,060

[1] Covers entrants whose highest qualification on entry was below HE level. This does not exclude those who may have attended HE in the past without gaining a qualification. Includes entrants with a missing highest qualification on entry.

[2] Covers entrants of all domiciles to both full-time and part-time first degree courses.

Note:

Figures are based on a snapshot basis as at 1 December and have been rounded to the nearest five.

Source:

Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA).

Low Impact Building Innovation Platform

Paul Rowen: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how much has been allocated to the Low Impact Building Innovation Platform in each year since it was established. [260589]

Mr. Lammy *[holding answer 4 March 2009]:* The Technology Strategy Board, funded through the Department's innovation budget, supports the low impact building innovation platform. The low impact building platform was launched in May 2008 with an initial budget of £30 million over three years. Following the Prime Minister's announcement on 28 January of the retrofit for the future challenge, a further £10 million was added to the budget giving a total of £40 million.

In financial year 2008-09 £3.3 million has been committed to projects under the platform. In the summer of 2009 three funding schemes totalling £24 million will be opened under the platform: Retrofit for the future—£10 million; Demonstrator monitoring—£10 million; and design and decision tools—£4 million. It is expected that the bulk of these funds will be committed to projects by the end of financial year 2009/10. The remaining funds from the £40 million budget are expected to be committed in financial year 2010-11 on other programme activities.

Mathematics: Research

Adam Afriyie: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how much funding was allocated by the Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council to the mathematical sciences research programme in each year since 2001; and what allocations it has made to the programme for future years. [264626]

Mr. Lammy: Expenditure by the Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council (EPSRC) through its mathematical sciences research programme since 2001 is shown in the following table:

Expenditure on Maths programme

	£000
2001-02	6,615
2002-03	7,751
2003-04	7,681
2004-05	8,778
2005-06	10,138
2006-07	11,699
2007-08	14,331

These figures are for research and do not cover studentships or fellowships. For the following three years, expenditure is forecast to be:

Expenditure on Maths programme

	£000
2008-09	17,956
2009-10	16,499
2010-11	16,622

These figures include expenditure on existing grants and expenditure arising from new grants. In 2008-09, 2009-10 and 2010-11 EPSRC expects to commit £16 million, £14 million, and £14 million respectively to new grants through the mathematical sciences programme.

Expenditure on these grants will take place over a number of years.

Members: Correspondence

Sir Gerald Kaufman: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills when he plans to reply to the letter of 11 February 2009 from the right hon. Member for Manchester, Gorton, with regard to Mr I Muhammad. [266367]

Mr. Simon: My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills replied to this letter on 23 March 2009.

Performing Arts

John Mason: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills whether his Department has engaged any *(a)* actors, *(b)* musicians and *(c)* other performers to support its initiatives over the last five years. [264050]

Mr. Simon: The Department's record/financial systems are not able to identify this information within disproportionate cost threshold.

Science: Research

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what recent steps he has taken to promote scientific research in universities in *(a)* England, *(b)* the North East and *(c)* Tees Valley district. [264373]

Mr. Lammy: Government investment in science and research is at record levels, and will reach just under £6 billion by 2010-11. Much of this funding is allocated to universities.

This takes Government support for the UK's research base to its highest ever level and will enable the UK to maintain its leading position in research excellence, as well as helping to build a stronger economy.

Funding is allocated on the basis of research excellence, not geographical location.

In 2006-07, Higher Education Funding Council for England (HEFCE) recurrent research grants and Research Council grants to universities in England totalled £2.3 billion, of which £97 million went to universities in the north-east.

Source:

Higher Education Statistics Agency, Resources of Higher Education Institutions 2006-07)

Students

Sammy Wilson: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills (1) what percentage of university students are UK nationals; [264738]

(2) what percentage of undergraduate places on science, technology, engineering and mathematics courses in universities in England are filled by UK nationals. [264739]

Mr. Lammy: Nationality is not a compulsory return on the Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA) student record. As domicile is compulsory (and is therefore included for all students), this has been provided as an alternative.

In the 2007/08 academic year, 85 per cent. of enrolments on higher education courses at English higher education institutions were UK domiciled.

The following table shows the percentage of undergraduate enrolments in science, technology, engineering and mathematics courses who were UK domiciled.

Undergraduate enrolments[1] on science, technology, engineering and mathematics[2] courses by domicile, English higher education institutions, academic year 2007/08

Subject of study	*Percentage UK domiciled*
Medicine and dentistry	91
Subjects allied to medicine	95
Biological sciences	94
Veterinary science	95
Agriculture and related subjects	93
Physical sciences	94
Mathematical sciences	86
Computer science	89
Engineering and technology	78
Architecture, building & planning	89

[1] Covers undergraduate enrolments to both full-time and part-time courses.

[2] The subjects listed in the table are what the Department define as STEM (science, technology, engineering and mathematics) subjects.

Note:

Figures are based on a HESA standard registration population.

Source:

Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA).

Students: Fees

Adam Price: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills if he will consult the Welsh Assembly Government as part of the review of the cap on tuition fees. [265505]

Mr. Lammy *[holding answer 20 March 2009]:* The review will be independent of the Government, but we would expect it to consult widely both within the higher education sector, and outside, before delivering its findings.

There was a commitment to Parliament to review the cap on tuition fees after the first group of students who paid variable fees completed their degrees. As such, the review cannot start before this summer.

Students: Finance

Stephen Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what information his Department holds on the number of UK domiciled full-time students enrolled on *(a)* first-degree and *(b)* other degree courses at an English higher education institution who left their course for financial reasons in each of the last 10 years. [264843]

Mr. Lammy: The latest available information from the Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA) is shown in the following table. Figures for the 2008/09 academic year will be available in January 2010.

UK domiciled full-time first degree and other undergraduate enrolments who left their course having neither completed nor transferred and, of this group, those who left for financial reasons. English higher education institutions[1] —academic years 1998/99 to 2007/08

	First Degree		*Other UG*	
		Of which:		*Of which:*
Academic year	*Total who left having neither completed nor transferred*	*Left for financial reasons*	*Total who left having neither completed nor transferred*	*Left for financial reasons*
1998/99	25,815	835	7,125	190
1999/2000	23,365	760	6,155	160
2000/01	22,565	690	5,870	170
2001/02	23,340	570	6,525	125
2002/03	24,540	660	6,200	125
2003/04	25,035	685	5,990	140
2004/05	25,265	700	6,015	180
2005/06	24,820	730	6,290	150
2006/07	26,145	505	6,125	115
2007/08	28,495	510	6,185	100

[1] Figures exclude the Open University due to inconsistencies in their coding of undergraduate study over the time series.

Note:

Figures are on a snapshot basis as at 1 December and have been rounded to the nearest five.

Source:

Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA)

The reason for leaving information on the HESA Student Record should be treated with some caution, because the 'Other personal reasons and dropped out' and 'Other' fields are used extensively. Institutions are not always able to record the precise reason for leaving. Furthermore, HESA allows only one reason for withdrawal to be recorded, however it is likely that many students leave for a combination of reasons.

Students: Loans

Mr. Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how many graduates who are earning between £15,000 and £30,000 are making student loan repayments. [264769]

Mr. Lammy: In tax year 2006-07, the most recent year for which published data were available, 324,900 English-domiciled borrowers with earnings between £15,000 and £30,000 were repaying their income contingent student loans.

This figure is not comparable with figures published in the Student Loans Statistical First Release because it is calculated on a tax year basis whereas the SFR figures are calculated on a financial year basis.

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what rates of interest have been charged to students who have loans with the Student Loans Company over the last five years; and if he will make a statement. [265384]

Mr. Lammy: The interest rates applicable to student loans for the last five academic years are as follows:

Percentage

	Income contingent repayment loans	*Mortgage-style loans*
2004/05	2.6	2.6
2005/06	3.2	3.2
2006/07	2.4	2.4
2007/08	4.8	4.8
2008/09	[1]3.8	3.8
	[2]3.0	—
	[3]2.5	—
	[4]2.0	—
	[5]1.5	—

[1] From 1 September 2008

[2] From 5 December 2008

[3] From 9 January 2009

[4] From 6 February 2009

[5] From 6 March 2009

The interest rate to be charged on mortgage-style student loans, i.e. those taken out before 1 September 1998, is set out in the Education (Student Loans) Act 1990 and the Education (Student Loans) Regulations 1998, which provide for a link to the Retail Price Index (RPI). Specifically, the interest rate for an academic year is the annual movement in the RPI for the year to the previous March. Therefore, the interest rate of 3.8 per cent. for the 2008/09 academic year reflects movements in the RPI for the year to March 2008.

The legislative provisions for Income Contingent Repayment student loans, i.e. those taken out since 1 September 1998, also provide a link to the RPI. However, once set each September, the rate of interest must not exceed 1 per cent. above the highest of the base rates of a specified number of banks (the 'low' interest cap). The low interest cap was triggered in December 2008 when the Monetary Policy Committee of the Bank of England reduced the bank base rate 'in year' to 2 per cent. and further reduced it in January, February and March of 2009.

Youth at Risk

Patrick Mercer: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills in which universities the two-year student leadership pilot being run by Youth at Risk is operating; and how much his Department has spent on the pilot. [264887]

Mr. Lammy: The two-year pilot Student Leadership Programme run by Youth at Risk is operating in London Metropolitan university, the university of Bedfordshire and Thames Valley university. The project has been running since July 2008 and so far DIUS has provided £153,000 of funding.

BUSINESS, ENTERPRISE AND REGULATORY REFORM

Bankruptcy

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many people were declared bankrupt in *(a)* England, *(b)* the North East, *(c)* the Tees Valley and *(d)* Middlesbrough South and East Cleveland constituency in each of the last 10 years. [254911]

Mr. McFadden: Table 1 as follows shows the number of bankruptcy orders recorded in *(a)* England, *(b)* the North East, *(c)* Tees Valley and Durham, and *(d)* Middlesbrough South and East Cleveland constituency in each year from 2000 to 2007.

Table: 1

	2000	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*
England	17,514	19,950	20,870	24,805	32,182	43,023	57,481	59,114
North East	973	1,126	1,203	1,294	1,655	2,154	3,011	3,430
Tees Valley and Durham	409	487	510	496	665	734	1,082	1,232
Middlesbrough South and East Cleveland	17	23	35	33	41	53	57	78

Note:

1. The geographic system used to classify areas does not identify Tees Valley separately from Durham.
2. Regional figures are not yet available for 2008, nor for years prior to 2000.
3. Classifying insolvent individuals into administrative geographies is done using the postcode that the person provides.
4. Inaccurate or missing postcodes mean that the numbers in the above table will be subject to an element of missing data. Nationally, this proportion has been decreasing from about 12 per cent. in 2000 to less than 4 per cent. in 2007.

British Brands Group

David Taylor: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform on how many occasions *(a)* Ministers and *(b)* officials in his Department have met the (i) British Brands Group and (ii) Anti-Counterfeiting Group in each of the last five years. [263857]

Mr. McFadden *[holding answer 17 March 2009]:* This Department is always willing to meet business organisations to discuss the implications of Government policy on the businesses they represent, but does not keep comprehensive records of all such meetings. The British Brands Group and the Anti-Counterfeiting Group have met officials a number times over the last five years to discuss a range of issues affecting their members, including implementation of the unfair commercial practices directive, amendments to Part 9 of the Enterprise Act 2002 and the Competition Commission's report on groceries. The British Brands Group also had a meeting with a Special Adviser. I recently took part in the launch of the British Branch exhibition in the Upper Waiting Hall of the House of Commons.

Construction: Credit Insurance

Mr. Hollobone: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform if he will take steps to *(a)* increase the availability and *(b)* reduce the cost of credit insurance, with particular reference to firms in the construction sector. [265712]

Ian Pearson: This Department is providing a range of support to industry, including the construction sector to help companies during the current recession. For more information see:

http://www.realhelpnow.gov.uk/

Departmental Electricity Generation

Simon Hughes: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how much has been spent by his Department on *(a)* capital expenditure and *(b)* maintenance and running costs for standby diesel generators for backup electricity on the departmental estate in each year since March 1997. [264094]

Mr. McFadden: Since its formation on 28 June 2007, this Department has not purchased any new diesel generators. Since this date, the Department has spent £55,500 on maintenance and running costs, including diesel, for the standby generators on our central London estate.

Departmental Sick Pay

Jenny Willott: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how much was paid in sick pay to staff *(a)* his Department and its predecessor, *(b)* its agencies and *(c)* the non-departmental bodies for which his Department has responsibility in each of the last five years; what proportion of the annual staffing expenditure of each body this represented in each year; and if he will make a statement. [241092]

Mr. McFadden: The Department does not at present routinely calculate the annual cost of sickness absence. As this would involve manually investigating employee sickness records and pay details on an individual basis, the cost of doing this would be disproportionate to the benefit to be derived.

Information on the cost of sickness absence for the civil service as a whole for 2003, 2004, 2005 and 2006-07 can be found on the civil service website:

http://www.civilservice.gov.uk/about/statistics/sickness.asp

I have asked the Chief Executives of the Insolvency and Companies House to respond to the hon. Member directly.

Letter from Gareth Jones, dated 24 March 2009:

I am responding on behalf of Companies House to your recently tabled Parliamentary Question to the Secretary of State for Business Enterprise and Regulatory Reform.

The estimated cost of sick pay paid to Companies House staff and the proportion of the annual staffing expenditure this represented in each of the last five financial years is as follows:

Financial year	*Cost of sick pay (£ estimated)*	*Staffing expenditure (Percentage estimated)*
2003-04	874,411	4.08
2004-05	760,130	3.50
2005-06	853,634	3.93
2006-07	956,184	4.04
2007-08	830,838	3.69

Letter from Stephen Speed, dated 24 March 2009:

The Minister of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform has asked me to reply to you directly in respect of your question (2007/3334) asking how much was paid in sick pay to staff in each of the last five years; and what proportion of the annual staffing expenditure this represented for each of those years.

I regret to inform you that we are unable to supply you with data for the questions raised. The data required is held in several different sources and to gather this information would on this occasion entail a disproportionate cost.

Departmental Surveys

Grant Shapps: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how much his Department spent on staff surveys in each of the last five years; and which company was contracted to conduct each such survey. [259683]

Mr. McFadden: The information requested is contained in the following table.

	Contractor	*Cost (£)*
2004-05	Maven Management Ltd.	40,543.78
2005-06	Maven Management Ltd.	23,770.00
2006-07	ORC International Ltd.	21,017.78
2007-08	ORC International Ltd.	23,751.78
2008-09	ORC International Ltd.	22,204.67

Flexible Working: Parents

Mr. Oaten: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what estimate he has made of the cost to small businesses of extending flexible working to parents of children up to the age of 16 years. [264642]

Mr. McFadden *[holding answer 19 March 2009]:* The Department estimates the cost of extension of the right to request flexible working to parents of older children to entail an average cost of £16 per micro business (one to nine employees) and £138 per small business (10 to 49 employees).

More detailed estimates of costs and benefits to business are contained in the final impact assessment accompanying the government response to the consultation on implementing the recommendations of the Walsh Review into flexible working which is due to be published shortly.

The business benefits of the policy are also set out in the final impact assessment. Overall the benefits exceed the costs.

Freight: Bankruptcy

Mr. Goodwill: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what estimate he has made of the number of freight transport businesses declared bankrupt in each of the last five years. [264726]

Mr. McFadden *[holding answer 19 March 2009]:* The Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform has made no estimate of the number of freight transport businesses declared bankrupt in each of the last five years.

Self-employed traders may be declared bankrupt, whereas registered companies are the subject of liquidation (compulsory liquidation or creditors voluntary liquidation (CVL)).

The information held by the Insolvency Service on self-employed bankruptcies and company liquidations is not sufficiently detailed to identify those in the freight transport industry.

Numbers are available for the Transport, Storage and Communication sector as a whole (which contains freight transport) from Q3 2007 in England and Wales. These are shown in the table:

Transport, storage and communication England and Wales

	Self-employed bankruptcies	*Compulsory liquidations*	*Creditors' voluntary liquidations*
2007			
Q3	229	84	96
Q4	213	92	79
2008			
Q1	279	83	101
Q2	264	92	102
Q3	319	94	124
Q4	n/a	n/a	145

n/a = Not yet available.

Manufacturing Industries

Mr. Crausby: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what plans he has to assist manufacturing industry in the North West. [263964]

Ian Pearson: The Government have acted to help industry through the current economic downturn, by the measures they have taken to boost capital and liquidity in the market and this will help manufacturers in the North West. BERR is providing a range of support to industry. For more information see:

http://www.realhelpnow.gov.uk/

The manufacturing strategy launched in September is providing £150 million of support for UK manufacturing, helping manufacturers to: seize the opportunities of the low carbon economy; significantly increase apprenticeships; and take advantage of new markets in the global economy.

The Northwest Regional Development Agency continues to deliver specific support to the industry in the North West through its regional cluster and sector bodies, as well as through business link North West. A £10 million programme is in place to help new and high growth businesses reach their potential, and work is currently underway on a North West regional manufacturing strategy and action plan. We are also supporting manufacturing with programmes such as the Manufacturing Advisory Service (MAS), which since April 2008 has helped over 1,200 companies in the North West to achieve cost savings and increased business worth over £47 million.

Minimum Wage

Jon Cruddas: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform if he will take steps to increase the capacity of the national minimum wage customer responsive outreach team. [264355]

Mr. McFadden: The Government take awareness and enforcement of the minimum wage seriously, extra resources have gone into both in recent years. HM Revenue and Customs employ national minimum wage customer responsive outreach officers who are embedded in compliances teams across the country. The officers play an important role in a wider publicity and educational activities to raise awareness of the national minimum wage. There are no plans to increase the capacity of this team as current demand is being met.

Jon Cruddas: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform if he will bring forward proposals to reduce levels of non-compliance with national minimum wage legislation in addition to those proposed in relation to enforcement penalties. [264356]

Mr. McFadden: The new penalties and other measures included in the Employment Act 2008 in relation to national minimum wage will bring about significant improvements to the enforcement regime. These measures will come into force on 6 April 2009.

The Government continuously monitor the efficiency and effectiveness of the enforcement regime and will undertake an assessment of their impact of the changes once the effects are clear.

Hugh Bayley: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what recent representations he has received from *(a)* tourism industry bodies and *(b)* others on the national minimum wage; and whether he plans to increase the level of the national minimum wage in 2009. [264505]

Mr. McFadden: I have received no representations from the tourism industry specifically on the national minimum wage (NMW). A number of representations on the NMW are however made each year to the independent Low Pay Commission (LPC), who carry out a wide ranging consultation as part of their preparation in making their recommendations to Government on the minimum wage, including what the rates should be.

The Low Pay Commission has agreed to make their recommendations to Government by 1 May. Shortly after this the Government will respond to these recommendations.

Public Sector: Redundancy

Mrs. Gillan: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many *(a)* redundancies, *(b)* retirements and *(c)* redundancy notices his Department has been notified of by public sector organisations in Wales in each week since 1 January 2009; and what estimate he has made of the total number of such (i) redundancies, (ii) retirements and (iii) redundancy notices in each week. [264588]

Mr. McFadden *[holding answer 19 March 2009]:* Employers who propose to make 20 or more redundancies at one establishment within a 90 day period are required to notify the Secretary of State of the proposal under provisions contained in the Trade Union and Labour Relations (Consolidation) Act 1992. There is no requirement for notification of employees who retire.

One notice of proposed redundancies from a public sector organisation in Wales has been received since 1 January 2009 to date. The employer is proposing 304 redundancies at various establishments. Estimates of the total redundancies are not made as the employer provides that information when notifying his proposals.

Regional Development Agencies: Meetings

Julia Goldsworthy: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what guidance his Department provides to regional development agencies on the publication of *(a)* agendas and *(b)* minutes of their meetings. [264455]

Mr. McFadden *[holding answer 18 March 2009]:* All RDAs publish documents in line with the Information Commissioner's model publication scheme drawn up under the Freedom of Information Act. The model scheme includes publishing requirements relating to management board meetings and similar meetings where decisions are made about the provision of services.

Royal Mail: Reorganisation

Mr. Hollobone: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what recent discussions his Department has had with private sector companies on the future ownership and management of Royal Mail. [264933]

Mr. McFadden *[holding answer 20 March 2009]:* The Department and our advisers have had discussions in recent weeks with a number of potential partners with experience of transforming a major business who are interested in entering into partnership with Royal Mail.

At this stage of the process only TNT has made their interest public. For commercial confidentiality reasons it would not be appropriate to reveal details on the nature of these discussions or who else wishes to explore the possibility of entering into a partnership with Royal Mail.

Geraldine Smith: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform which postal operators have expressed interest in forming a strategic partnership with Royal Mail to date. [265291]

Mr. McFadden *[holding answer 20 March 2009]:* Government have received a number of expressions of interest regarding a partnership with Royal Mail. At this stage of the process only TNT has made their interest public. For commercial confidentiality reasons it would not be appropriate to reveal details on who else wishes to explore the possibility of entering into a partnership with Royal Mail.

Taxation: Small Businesses

Mr. Oaten: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform (1) when businesses will be entitled to apply for the Small Business Finance Scheme; [243135]

(2) when he expects the first payments to be made under the Small Business Finance Scheme. [243136]

Ian Pearson *[holding answer 15 December 2008]:* The Small Business Finance scheme announced in the pre-Budget report was launched as the Enterprise Finance Guarantee on 14 January 2009 and is available from 23 approved lenders including all the main UK high street banks.

The first payments have already been issued and thus far around 400 loans worth more than £40 million have been offered or in progress.

CHILDREN, SCHOOLS AND FAMILIES

Child Minding

Mrs. Maria Miller: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many and what proportion of registered childminders are on *(a)* the Early Years Register and *(b)* the Ofsted Childcare Register. [260036]

Beverley Hughes: These are matters for Ofsted. The Chief Inspector, Christine Gilbert, has written to the hon. Member and copies of her replies have been placed in the Libraries.

Letter from Christine Gilbert, dated 16 March 2009:

Your recent parliamentary question has been passed to me, as Her Majesty's Chief Inspector, for reply. You will be aware that people can apply to join one register or both registers at the same time.

The latest set of available figures, published on 13 March, show that there were 61,929 registered childminders at the 31 December 2008. At that time, 61,428 (99%) were on the Early years Register and 61,556 (99%) were on the Ofsted Childcare Register. Since not all providers inform Ofsted that they have ceased provision, these numbers are likely to be higher than the actual number of active childminders.

A copy of this reply has been sent to Rt Hon Beverley Hughes MP, Minister of State for Children, Young People and Families, and will be placed in the library of both Houses.

Children: Internet

James Brokenshire: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what guidance his Department has published for parents on protecting children from harm arising from use of the internet. [263940]

Beverley Hughes: In partnership with Childnet International, the department has published a range of guidance and resources for parents under the "Know It All" brand to promote safe and positive use of the internet. This award-winning family of products has so far been distributed to over one million parents in England.

In addition we have published comprehensive online guidance on both departmental websites and those of our partners. We are currently updating guidance on social networking websites and have established a public awareness working group as part of the UK Council for Child Internet Safety to further promote the importance of internet safety to families.

James Brokenshire: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what progress has been made on implementation of the recommendations of the Byron review, Safer children in a digital world. [263941]

Beverley Hughes: In September 2008 the Government launches the UK Council for Child Internet Safety (UKCCIS) Safety (UKCCIS) as part of its commitment to implement the recommendations of the Byron review. The Council consists of over 100 organisations from across industry, government, law enforcement and the third sector. An Executive Board to the Council has been appointed which has agreed the immediate priority activities and established a number of working groups to draw together expertise and assist in the implementation of the report.

The Council will publish the first ever Child Internet Safety Strategy later this year to provide an overview of how the Byron recommendations will be met. Significant progress has already been made on a number of specific recommendations including the publication of new advice to parents and teachers, commissioning research to develop the evidence base for policy making and providing support for initiatives to reduce cyber-bullying and promote European Safer Internet Day.

James Brokenshire: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what progress has been made on the development of the child internet safety strategy. [263942]

Beverley Hughes: The Government published their Byron Review Action Plan in June 2008 which outlined how we will implement all the recommendations contained in Dr. Byron's Report. At the first meeting of the Executive Board of the UK Council for Child Internet Safety (UKCCIS) in December 2008, the board agreed the immediate priorities for UKCCIS activity.

At its most recent meeting on 10 March, the board agreed that the Child Internet Safety strategy should be published in the autumn and following extensive consultation with stakeholders.

This will be taken forward through a number of recently set up UKCCIS working groups.

James Brokenshire: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families on how many occasions the UK Council on Child Internet Safety (UKCCIS) has met; how much his Department has spent on UKCCIS; and how much is planned to be spent on UKCCIS in *(a)* 2009-10 and *(b)* 2010-11. [263943]

Jim Knight: The UK Council for Child Internet Safety (UKCCIS) was launched in September 2008. Since then the Executive Board to the Council has met twice—in December 2008 and March 2009. Four working groups have been established and will meet shortly. These meetings will be supported by online discussions and other smaller gatherings of council members to look at specific issues. The council as a whole will meet on an annual basis at its summit to review progress and agree forward work.

The Government allocated £300,000 to support the activity of UKCCIS for 2008-09, and £450,000 for 2009-10. This does not include the cost of officials working within the UKCCIS secretariat or the delivery of Dr. Byron's recommendations which will rely on building digital safety into planned activities and services that are already funded, such as £9 million on a safety awareness campaign for children that will include internet safety.

The budget for 2010-11 is yet to be decided.

James Brokenshire: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families on what date the Child Internet Safety Summit will be held. [263944]

Beverley Hughes: On March 10, the Executive Board of the UK Council for Child Internet Safety, made up of representation from across Government, industry, law enforcement and the third sector, agreed that the Child Internet Safety Summit should take place in the autumn.

The Government expect to announce the exact date shortly.

James Brokenshire: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families on how many occasions the Executive Board of the UK Council on Child Internet Safety has met; and if he will place a copy of the minutes of each meeting in the Library. [263945]

Beverley Hughes: The Executive Board of the UK Council for Child Internet Safety has met twice. The first meeting was on 9 December 2008 and the most recent was 10 March 2009. The next quarterly meeting is scheduled for 9 June.

Meeting notes from all Board meetings are published online on the UKCCIS website:

http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/ukccis/management.shtml.

Children: Protection

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families when he and the Secretary of State for Health expect revisions to the guidance to and systems of accident and emergency departments to be made. [264379]

Ann Keen: I have been asked to reply.

The Government will produce a detailed action plan in response to the recommendations in Lord Laming's report, "The Protection of Children in England: A Progress Report"—including that referring to accident and emergency departments—by the end of April.

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families with reference to page 16 of The Protection of Children in England: a progress report, HC330, what formalised and explicit performance indicators are planned to be introduced for primary care trusts. [265234]

Ann Keen: I have been asked to reply.

This will be addressed in the detailed action plan in response to the recommendations in Lord Laming's report, "The Protection of Children in England: A Progress Report" that the Government have promised by the end of April.

Children's Centres: Sunderland

Mr. Kemp: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what expenditure his Department incurred on children's centres in the city of Sunderland in each of the last 10 years. [265030]

Beverley Hughes: Sure Start local programmes (SSLPs), the forerunner of Sure Start children's centres were introduced in 1999-2000. Details of expenditure in Sunderland on SSLPs and children's centres since that time, which totals £45.4 million, are shown in the following table:

Sunderland children's centre and SSLP expenditure

£

Financial year	*Children's centre revenue expenditure*	*Children's centre capital expenditure*	*SSLP revenue expenditure*	*SSLP capital expenditure*	*Total expenditure*
2007-08	1,084,457	1,781,166	4,385,017	0	7,250,640
2006-07	1,452,056	3,385,017	5,091,011	0	9,928,084
2005-06	1,182,528	1,620,193	5,036,669	2,253,476	10,092,866
2004-05	120,094	0	4,823,900	1,308,120	6,252,114
2003-04	0	0	4,215,130	1,011,228	5,226,358
2002-03	0	0	2,664,571	97,503	2,762,074
2001-02	0	0	1,511,089	203,972	1,715,061
2000-01	0	0	788,177	1,111,198	1,899,375
1999-2000	0	0	223,162	37,710	260,872
Total	3,839,135	6,786,376	28,738,726	6,023,207	45,387,444

Children's Trusts

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) what minimum qualifications are required of the chairmen of children's trusts; [265227]

(2) who chairs each children's trust. [265228]

Beverley Hughes: The Government do not prescribe a minimum level of qualifications for those who chair children's trust boards. Boards should be chaired in a way that most effectively meets the needs of children and young people. That is a matter for local determination. Proposals to strengthen children's trust boards in the Apprenticeships, Skills, Children and Learning Bill—which is currently before Parliament—will be supported by guidance which will cover the process for appointing the chair and the chair's role on the board.

Current information suggests that about 80 per cent. of children's trust boards are chaired either by the lead member for Children's Services or the director of Children's Services.

Departmental Billing

Mr. Oaten: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what percentage of invoices from suppliers his Department has settled within 10 days of receipt in the last four months. [266243]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The Department for Children, Schools and Families reports on its payment performance to the Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform. The percentage of invoices paid within the Government's 10 day target over the last four months were as follows:

	Percentage
November 2008	91.6
December 2008	90.1
January 2009	91.8
February 2009	92.5

Departmental Correspondence

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many standard letters his Department has written to headteachers of special schools since September 2007; and if he will place in the Library a copy of each. [259296]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The Department has written one letter to head teachers specifically on special educational needs in the last twelve months. A copy of the letter will be placed in the Library.

Departmental Electricity Generation

Simon Hughes: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how much has been spent by his Department on *(a)* capital expenditure and *(b)* maintenance and running costs for standby diesel generators for backup electricity on the departmental estate in each year since March 1997. [264093]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The Department has not committed any capital expenditure for the purchase of standby generators during the period 1997 to date.

The Department has two standby generators that kick in the event of a major power failure but have never been actively used. Both generators are subject to an annual load test lasting one hour and the cost of this test both in fuel and maintenance is so small that the information cannot be gleaned from the overall cost of maintaining the estate.

Gifted Children: Essex

Mr. Newmark: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) how many and what proportion of *(a)* primary and *(b)* secondary schools in (i) Braintree constituency and (ii) Essex have a gifted and talented register; [264440]

(2) how many and what proportion of school pupils in *(a)* Braintree constituency, *(b)* Essex and *(c)* England are on the gifted and talented register in (i) the primary and (ii) secondary sector. [264441]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The Department does not collect data on which schools have a register of gifted and talented learners. Through the School Census schools are asked to confirm the gifted and talented pupils they have identified. In the summer 2008 Census, 95 per cent. of secondary schools and 78 per cent. of primary schools nationally confirmed they were identifying gifted and talented pupils. The comparable figures for Essex were 84 per cent. and 83 per cent. respectively. These data are not available for Braintree.

The following table shows the number and proportion of gifted and talented pupils attending primary and secondary schools in Braintree, Essex and England according to the summer 2008 School Census.

	Primary		Secondary	
	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage
Braintree	780	8.4	468	7.9
Essex	10,195	9.7	10,275	11.5
England	347,400	8.4	454,770	14.2

Gifted Children: Hertfordshire

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many and what proportion of *(a)* primary and *(b)* secondary schools in (i) Hemel Hempstead and (ii) Hertfordshire have a gifted and talented register. [265799]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The Department does not collect data on which schools have a register of gifted and talented learners. Through the School Census schools are asked to confirm the gifted and talented pupils they have identified. In the summer 2008 census, 95 per cent. of secondary schools and 78 per cent. of primary schools nationally confirmed they were identifying gifted and talented pupils. The comparable figures for Hertfordshire were 94 per cent. and 82 per cent. respectively.

These data are not available for Hemel Hempstead, but the following table shows the number and proportion of gifted and talented pupils attending primary and secondary schools in Hemel Hempstead, Hertfordshire and England according to the summer 2008 School Census.

	Primary		Secondary	
	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage
Hemel Hempstead	618	7.7	837	11.8
Hertfordshire	7,159	7.8	12,142	15.2
England	347,400	8.4	454,770	14.2

Israel: Anniversaries

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families to which events held in the United Kingdom to commemorate the 60th anniversary of the founding of the State of Israel he was invited as the representative of the Government; which such invitations he *(a)* accepted and *(b)* declined; and if he will make a statement. [261393]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families attended and spoke at the 'Salute to Israel' celebration of the 60th anniversary of the creation of the State of Israel in Trafalgar Square. The Department does not retain information on other invitations that may have been received and declined.

Pupils: Bullying

James Brokenshire: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) what guidance his Department has given to schools on reducing levels of cyberbullying; [263935]

(2) how much his Department has spent on each of its campaigns to reduce levels of cyberbullying in each of the last three years; [263936]

(3) who the members are of the cyberbullying taskforce; and how many times the taskforce has met. [263946]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The Department published detailed guidance for schools on how to prevent and tackle cyberbullying in September 2007. ~~We have also~~ produced a resource pack for school staff consisting of a DVD and booklet on cyberbullying. I have asked the Anti-Bullying Alliance and the National Strategies to work with local authorities and schools to ensure the cyberbullying guidance is implemented effectively locally, and that schools make effective use of the other materials.

We ran a cyberbullying campaign specifically targeted at young people aged 12 to 14 to raise awareness. The first phase of the campaign ran from October to December 2007 at a cost of around £200,000 and the second phase ran from November 2008 to February 2009 and cost around £220,000. In addition, the Department was able to secure free additional advertising space from a range of internet service providers with a total value of around £135,000.

The Cyberbullying Taskforce has met on six separate occasions. The Taskforce was chaired once by Jim Knight and once by Kevin Brennan. The members of the Cyberbullying Taskforce are:

Task force members	*Organisation*
Emma Ashcroft	Yahoo
Richard Barron	BeatBullying
Steven Bartholomew	O2
Robert Beattie	Department for Children Schools and Families (DCSF)
Trish Church	Orange
Pat Cherry	Parent Governor
Fergus Crow	Anti-Bullying Alliance (ABA)
Jason Dabon	DCSF
Thaddeus Douglas	BeatBullying
Owen Fernandez	Child Exploitation and Online Protection Centre (CEOP)
Josephine Fraser	Childnet International
Will Gardner	Childnet International
Mike Griffiths	Association of School and College Leaders (ASCL)
Ruth Hammond	Becta
Juliet Kramer	T-Mobile
Anthony Langan	Samaritans
Graham Robb	Youth Justice Board
Rosamund McNeil	National Union of Teachers (NUT)
Rupert Marsh	Department for Business Enterprise and Regulatory Reform (BERR)
Shereen Meharg	MySpace
Justin Millar	Home Office
Julie Minns	Three
Jennifer Moses	National Association of School Masters and Union of Women Teachers (NASUWT)
Ian Myles	National Association of Head Teachers (NAHT)
Annie Mullins	Vodafone
Rachel O'Connell	Bebo
Andy Peart	Association of Teachers and Lecturers
Richard Sargeant	Google
Emma Wilson	Vodafone

Shrewsbury House School

Mr. Hands: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families whether his Department has received reports of bullying at Shrewsbury House School, Ditton Road, Surbiton, Surrey in the last five years. [263404]

Beverley Hughes: The Department has not received any reports of bullying at Shrewsbury House School within the last five years.

Special Educational Needs

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many and what percentage of pupils with *(a)* a statement of special educational needs and *(b)* unstatemented special educational needs achieved five A* to G grades at GCSE (i) in all subjects and (ii) including English and mathematics in each year since 2003, broken down by type of school. [253438]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The information is provided in the tables.

(a) Pupils¹ with statements of SEN²

Percentages given of statemented SEN pupils in school type

	2008		2007		2006	
	Number	*Percentage*	*Number*	*Percentage*	*Number*	*Percentage*
(i) Achieving 5+ A-G³*						
Academies	176	57.0	89	51.7	48	47.1
Community Schools	5,632	60.4	5,947	65.3	5,984	62.5
Voluntary Aided	1,294	77.6	1,199	74.1	1,170	70.9
Voluntary Controlled	305	69.3	308	69.1	326	62.2
Foundation Schools	1,957	74.0	1,542	71.1	1,537	68.8
City Technology Colleges	12	100.0	19	95.0	13	100.0
Community Special Schools	659	7.1	626	6.6	507	5.6
Foundation Special Schools	20	5.6	12	4.4	0	0
Total	10,055	43.9	9,742	41.9	9,583	40.4
(ii) Achieving 5+ A-G³ including English and maths*						
Academies	152	49.2	74	43.0	41	40.2
Community Schools	4,893	60.3	5,203	57.1	5,299	55.3
Voluntary Aided	1,196	71.7	1,103	68.1	1,090	66.0
Voluntary Controlled	272	61.8	278	62.3	292	53.7
Foundation Schools	1,756	66.4	1,393	64.3	1,378	61.7
City Technology Colleges	12	100.0	16	80.0	11	84.6
Community Special Schools	462	4.9	470	5.0	396	4.2

(a) Pupils[1] with statements of SEN[2]

Percentages given of statemented SEN pupils in school type

	2008		2007		2006	
	Number	*Percentage*	*Number*	*Percentage*	*Number*	*Percentage*
Foundation Special Schools	19	4.2	7	2.6	0	0
Total	8,758	38.3	8,544	36.8	8,508	35.9

	2005		2004[15]		2003[15]	
	Number	*Percentage*	*Number*	*Percentage*	*Number*	*Percentage*
(i) Achieving 5+ A-G[3]*						
Academies	40	52.4	25	44.6	[4]—	[4]—
Community Schools	6,096	60.6	6,060	57.9	6,037	58.3
Voluntary Aided	1,102	67.4	1,101	67.8	1,026	67.5
Voluntary Controlled	311	61.6	283	55.7	289	59.0
Foundation Schools	1,396	68.4	1,433	67.7	1,352	64.9
City Technology Colleges	26	100.0	25	80.6	25	86.2
Community Special Schools	[illegible]—	[illegible]—	[5]—	[5]—	309	4.1
Foundation Special Schools	[illegible]—	[illegible]—	[5]—	[5]—	[4]—	[4]—
Total	9,292	40.4	9,352	38.4	9,124	37.8
(ii) Achieving 5+ A-G3 including English and maths*						
Academies	41	48.8	22	39.3	[4]—	[4]—
Community Schools	5,283	53.3	5,256	50.2	5,314	51.3
Voluntary Aided	1,025	62.7	994	61.2	933	61.3
Voluntary Controlled	283	56.4	248	48.8	251	51.2
Foundation Schools	1,249	61.2	1,274	60.2	1,227	58.9
City Technology Colleges	23	95.8	24	77.4	23	79.3
Community Special Schools	[illegible]—	[illegible]—	[5]—	[5]—	324	3.4
Foundation Special Schools	[illegible]—	[illegible]—	[5]—	[5]—	[4]—	[4]—
Total	8,233	33.9	8,173	33.5	8,078	33.5

(b) Pupils[1] without statements of SEN[2]

Percentages given of unstatemented SEN pupils in school type

	2008		2007		2006	
	Number	*Percentage*	*Number*	*Percentage*	*Number*	*Percentage*
(i) Achieving 5+ A-G[3]*						
Academies	2,540	77.2	1,201	72.6	691	70.0
Community Schools	53,752	80.6	47,412	76.5	42,997	73.2
Voluntary Aided	10,720	86.2	9,154	82.4	7,967	80.3
Voluntary Controlled	2,196	83.3	1,919	78.8	1,733	75.4
Foundation Schools	17,136	84.0	12,570	81.2	9,567	78.5
City Technology Colleges	95	96.0	174	97.8	201	96.2
Community Special Schools	11	14.7	7	11.5	7	11.1
Foundation Special Schools	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	86,479	81.8	72,437	78.0	63,163	74.8
(ii) Achieving 5+ A-G3 including English and maths*						
Academies	2,425	73.5	[illegible]	68.5	659	66.8
Community Schools	51,121	76.6	[illegible]	72.3	40,740	69.4
Voluntary Aided	10,425	83.9	[illegible]828	79.5	7,672	77.3
Voluntary Controlled	2,086	79.2	1,824	74.9	1,642	71.5
Foundation Schools	16,535	81.1	12,042	77.8	9,151	75.1
City Technology Colleges	92	92.9	170	95.5	187	89.5
Community Special Schools	11	14.7	[4]—	[4]—	7	11.1
Foundation Special Schools	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	82,715	78.3	68,800	74.1	60,058	71.2

	2005		2004(b)		2003(b)	
	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage
(i) Achieving 5+ A-G*[3]						
Academies	414	69.2	328	64.4	82	56.9
Community Schools	38,009	71.1	34,509	68.8	32,724	68.5
Voluntary Aided	7,296	78.4	6,897	77.0	6,277	76.7
Voluntary Controlled	1,585	73.6	1,460	68.9	1,360	70.6
Foundation Schools	8,349	77.5	8,298	76.3	7,303	75.5
City Technology Colleges	268	98.2	192	93.7	201	90.5
Community Special Schools	[5]	[5]	[5]	[5]	21	24.4
Foundation Special Schools	[5]	[5]	[5]	[5]	0	0
Total	55,926	73.0	51,686	70.9	47,968	70.5
(ii) Achieving 5+ A-G3 including English and maths*						
Academies	378	63.2	297	58.3	75	52.1
Community Schools	36,075	67.5	32,537	64.9	30,806	64.5
Voluntary Aided	7,004	75.2	6,590	73.5	5,992	73.2
Voluntary Controlled	1,512	70.2	1,386	65.4	1,284	66.7
Foundation Schools	8,034	74.5	7,956	73.2	6,956	72.0
City Technology Colleges	262	96.0	186	90.7	194	87.4
Community Special Schools	[5]	[5]	[5]	[5]	21	24.4
Foundation Special Schools	[5]	[5]	[5]	[5]	0	0
Total	53,270	69.6	48,959	67.2	45,328	66.6

[1] Only pupils at maintained schools have been counted.
(a) In the years 2005 to 2008, those at the end of their key stage 4 have been counted.
(b) In the years 2003 and 2004, those pupils aged 15 have been counted.
[2] Status of Special Educational Needs (SEN) was taken in the year specified.
[3] Examinations equivalent to a GCSE at A*-G have also been counted.
[4] Numbers of 5 and below have been suppressed in line with standard practice.
[5] Figures are not comparable in the years 2004 and 2005 for special schools.
Source:
National Pupil Database.

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families pursuant to the Answer of 24 February 2009, *Official Report*, column 758W, on special educational needs, how many of the children placed in schools outside their area in *(a)* 2003 and *(b)* 2008 were resident in each local authority area. [260825]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: A table containing the information requested has been placed in the Libraries.

Special Educational Needs: Disadvantaged

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) how many and what proportion of pupils in each decile of income deprivation affecting children indices had statements of special educational need in *(a)* 2003 and *(b)* 2008; [264848]

(2) how many and what proportion of pupils with statements of special educational need there were in each decile of income deprivation affecting children indices in *(a)* 2003 and *(b)* 2008; [264857]

(3) how many and what proportion of pupils in each decile of income deprivation affecting children indices with statements of special educational needs attended special schools in *(a)* 2003 and *(b)* 2008. [264875]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry *[holding answer 20 March 2009]*: The information is provided in the following table:

Children[1] with a statement of special educational needs (SEN) by IDACI decile[2] of pupil residence

	Number of children with a statement of SEN who attend special schools[3]		Percentage of children with a statement of SEN who attend special schools[3]		Number of children with a statement of SEN in all schools		Percentage of children with a statement of SEN in all schools	
IDACI decile of pupil residence	2003	2008	2003	2008	2003	2008	2003	2008
0-10% most deprived areas	16,559	14,965	41.9	44.5	39,543	33,659	3.9	3.4
10-20%	14,212	13,166	40.3	44.4	35,298	29,650	4.0	3,4
20-30%	11,691	11,046	38.4	42.3	30,435	26,126	3.8	3.4
30-40%	9,743	9,322	37.3	41.3	26,139	22,578	3.5	3.1
40-50%	8,173	8,067	36.1	39.7	22,662	20,309	3.1	2.9
50-60%	6,726	6,803	34.1	37.9	19,746	17,930	2.8	2.6
60-70%	6,274	6,430	34.3	37.9	18,272	16,979	2.6	2.5
70-80%	5,509	5,758	33.6	36.5	16,623	15,782	2.4	2.3
80-90%	5,261	5,448	33.2	36.1	15,825	15,095	2.3	2.2

Children[1] with a statement of special educational needs (SEN) by IDACI decile[2] of pupil residence

	Number of children with a statement of SEN who attend special schools[3]		*Percentage of children with a statement of SEN who attend special schools[3]*		*Number of children with a statement of SEN in all schools*		*Percentage of children with a statement of SEN in all schools*	
IDACI decile of pupil residence	*2003*	*2008*	*2003*	*2008*	*2003*	*2008*	*2003*	*2008*
90-100% least deprived areas	4,829	5,075	34.3	36.3	14,095	13,968	2.0	2.1

[1] Includes solely registered pupils only.
[2] Income deprivation affecting children index 2007 at super output area level.
[3] Includes pupils attending Foundation Special Schools, Community Special Schools and Non-Maintained Special Schools.
Source:
School Census

Special Educational Needs: Pupil Exclusions

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families pursuant to the Answer of 11 February 2009, *Official Report*, column 2117W, on special educational needs: pupil exclusions, why the figures in the Answer were not broken down by SEN. [260244]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The information provided shows the number of fixed period exclusions (not the number of pupils) broken down by primary special educational need and reason for exclusion. Information on the type of special educational need is only collected for those pupils at school action plus and those with a statement of special educational needs.

Maintained primary schools[1] number of fixed period exclusions by type of special educational need[2] and by reason for exclusion 2006/07—England

	Statement or School Action Plus[3]						
	Autistic spectrum disorder	*Behaviour, Emotional and Social Difficulties*	*Hearing impairment*	*Moderate learning difficulty*	*Multi-Sensory impairment*	*Other difficulty/ disability*	*Physical disability*
Physical assault against a pupil	160	4,100	20	770	*	70	10
Physical assault against an adult	310	3,190	10	420	*	40	20
Verbal abuse/ threatening behaviour against a pupil	30	920	*	230	0	10	10
Verbal abuse/ threatening behaviour against an adult	100	2,380	*	480	0	30	10
Bullying	*	120	0	20	0	*	0
Racist abuse	*	100	0	30	0	10	*
Sexual misconduct	10	80	*	30	0	*	0
Drug and alcohol related	0	10	0	*	0	*	0
Damage	20	320	*	70	0	10	*
Theft	*	50	0	30	*	0	*
Persistent disruptive behaviour	220	6,010	20	1,130	*	100	30
Other	60	1,050	*	220	0	30	*
Total	900	18,330	60	3,440	10	290	80

	Statement or School Action Plus[3]						*School Action[4]*
	Profound and multiple learning difficulty	*Speech, Language and Communication needs*	*Severe learning difficulty*	*Specific learning difficulty*	*Visual impairment*	*Not specified*	*Not specified*
Physical assault against a pupil	10	290	50	230	10	610	2,340
Physical assault against an adult	10	310	60	90	10	460	870
Verbal abuse/ threatening behaviour against a pupil	0	40	20	70	0	130	540
Verbal abuse/ threatening behaviour against an adult	0	140	40	130	*	330	970
Bullying	*	10	*	10	0	20	150
Racist abuse	0	10	*	10	0	10	80
Sexual misconduct	0	*	*	*	0	10	60
Drug and alcohol related	0	*	0	*	0	*	20
Damage	0	30	*	20	*	50	190

	Statement or School Action Plus[2]						School Action[3]
	Profound and multiple learning difficulty	Speech, Language and Communication needs	Severe learning difficulty	Specific learning difficulty	Visual impairment	Not specified	Not specified
Theft	0	10	*	10	0	20	100
Persistent disruptive behaviour	*	370	60	340	10	940	2,500
Other	*	80	20	70	0	190	660
Total	20	1,290	260	990	30	2,770	8,450

'*' = Less than 5

[1] Includes middle schools as deemed.

[2] Data for primary SEN need is collected for pupils with a statement of special educational needs or who are classified as being school action plus only. Data here has been taken from the National Pupil Database.

[3] Data for Primary SEN is not collected for pupils whose special educational need is classed as School Action.

Note:

Totals may not appear to equal the sum of component parts because numbers have been rounded to the nearest 10.

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many pupils with statements of special educational needs for autism were given *(a)* fixed-term and *(b)* permanent exclusion from mainstream schools in each year since 1997; and what the reasons for such exclusions were. [260517]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: Data on pupil characteristics linked to exclusions was collected in the School Census for the first time in 2005/06, but was collected from secondary schools only. In 2006/07 data were also collected from primary and special schools.

The information provided shows the number of fixed period and permanent exclusions (not the number of pupils) where the pupil's special educational need was autistic spectrum disorder, broken down by reason for exclusion. Pupils can be excluded more than once and these can be for different reasons.

Primary and secondary schools[1] number of fixed period and permanent exclusions for pupils with statements of SEN for autistic spectrum disorder by reason for exclusion[2]

	2005/06				2006/07			
	Fixed period		Permanent		Fixed period		Permanent	
	Primary[3]	Secondary	Primary[3]	Secondary	Primary	Secondary	Primary	Secondary
Bullying	n/a	10	n/a	0	*	20	0	0
Drug and alcohol related	n/a	20	n/a	*	0	10	0	0
Persistent disruptive behaviour	n/a	170	n/a	10	140	180	*	*
Damage	n/a	40	n/a	*	10	30	0	0
Other	n/a	200	n/a	*	30	210	*	0
Physical assault against an adult	n/a	100	n/a	*	220	120	10	*
Physical assault against a pupil	n/a	300	n/a	*	90	290	0	0
Racist abuse	n/a	10	n/a	0	*	10	0	0
Sexual misconduct	n/a	10	n/a	0	10	20	0	0
Theft	n/a	10	n/a	0	*	20	0	*
Verbal abuse/threatening behaviour against an adult	n/a	310	n/a	*	70	340	*	0
Verbal abuse/threatening behaviour against a pupil	n/a	40	n/a	*	10	50	0	*
Total	n/a	1,230	10	30	590	1,290	10	10

n/a = Not available

'*' = Less than 5

[1] Includes maintained primary, maintained secondary, city technology colleges and academies (including all-through academies).

[2] Pupils who, (a) at the time of the January School Census had statements of special educational need or whose need was classed as School Action Plus and (b) whose special educational need at the time of the School Census was autistic spectrum disorder, and (c) who had a statement of special educational needs at the time of exclusion.

[3] In 2005/06, Secondary school exclusions data was collected for the first time through the termly School Census. Primary school data was collected via the annual school census which collected data on permanent but not fixed term exclusions, and did not collect reasons for exclusion.

Note:

Figures have been rounded to the nearest 10

Source:

School Census

Teachers: Councillors

Andrew Selous: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what restrictions there are upon teachers serving as councillors on local authorities which are local education authorities; and if he will make a statement. [266169]

Jim Knight: Teachers are not permitted to serve as councillors of the local authorities in which they are employed. Section 80 of the Local Government Act 1972 states that a person shall be disqualified from being a member of a local authority if employed by (or holds a post confirmed by) the local authority or any of the committees of the local authority.

Teachers: Vetting

Tom Brake: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what percentage of teachers recruited to maintained *(a)* infant, *(b)* primary and *(c)* secondary schools were the subject of a completed Criminal Records Bureau check before starting work in each year since 2002. [265041]

Beverley Hughes: The Department does not hold this information.

Written Answers to Questions

Wednesday 25 March 2009

WALES

Departmental Public Expenditure

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales how much capital spending is planned to be brought forward by his Department to *(a)* 2008-09 and *(b)* 2009-10. [266300]

Mr. Paul Murphy: I refer the hon. Gentleman to my answer of 24 March 2009, *Official Report*, column 185W.

Departmental Training

Mr. Hands: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales pursuant to the answer of 29 January 2009, *Official Report*, column 689W, on departmental training, which Minister took the course Action Learning Set—National School of Government; and at what cost. [265669]

Mr. David: The Action Learning Set—National School of Government course referred to in my earlier answer cost £250. Identifying Ministers who undertake training may discourage participation in future training sessions, acting as a disincentive for Ministers to undertake formal professional development.

Energy: Prices

Mr. Hollobone: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what recent discussions he has had with the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change on energy prices in Wales. [265709]

Mr. Paul Murphy: I take a close interest in energy prices in Wales. Along with the Welsh Assembly Government I asked Ofgem when undertaking its review into the energy market to investigate why people in Wales appeared to be paying more for their energy. In its initial findings Ofgem concluded that people in Wales did pay more for their electricity due to a number of factors. I understand that Ofgem will be publishing new licensing conditions to help tackle some of these issues next month with a view to introducing them by the autumn.

TRANSPORT

Airports

Mr. Ancram: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will make an estimate of the airport runway capacity required in the South of England to remove the need for aircraft to be held in stacks. [265127]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The Government recognise the negative impacts of stacking on operational efficiency and the environment. The 'Future of Air Transport' White Paper encourages making better use of existing airport capacity and supports the delivery of two new runways in the south-east. Implementing that policy should reduce the need for stacking. In particular, the Government's recent confirmation of its support for a third runway at Heathrow should help to reduce the need for stacking at that airport where lack of runway capacity is a significant contributory factor. However, runway capacity is not the only relevant factor, and that is why the UK also strongly supports optimising the use of airspace, including through implementation of the Single European Sky.

Aviation

Justine Greening: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what objectives and sub-objectives were contained in his Department's Aviation Directorate's business plan in *(a)* 2006-07, *(b)* 2007-08 and *(c)* 2008-09; and which of these were contained in Project Heathrow project delivery and risk reports in each such year. [265874]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The Aviation Directorate's business plan for each of the years 2006-07, 2007-08 and 2008-09 included objectives relating to the delivery of 'The Future of Air Transport' White Paper. Heathrow project delivery and risk reports refer to those objectives. The Department's business plans are available on its website.

Departmental Billing

Mr. Oaten: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what percentage of its suppliers his Department has paid within 10 days of receipt of invoice in the last four months. [264932]

Mr. Hoon *[holding answer 20 March 2009]*: The Department for Transport collects and monitors its payment performance on a monthly basis against a target to pay all valid invoices within 30 days of receipt unless different payment terms exist. The Department's overall payment performance is reported to BERR at the end of each financial year.

Following the Prime Minister's statement on 8 October 2008 the Department has implemented new monitoring arrangements to report on its payment performance for all suppliers against a 10 day deadline. The new arrangements came into effect on 1 January 2009 with the first set of data available for the month of January.

Payment performance information is published each month on the Department's website at:

www.dft.gov.uk/AboutDfT/Procurement/ProcurementPolicies/PromptPaymentStatistics

Data are available for January and February 2009 for the percentage of valid invoices paid within 10 days as follows:

	Total
January 2009	
Percentage paid on time	61.19
Volume	17569

	Total
February 2009	
Percentage paid on time	65.42
Volume	17248

Note:
Data from the Vehicle Certification Agency is excluded—this will not be available until the next financial year.

Departmental Internet

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport pursuant to the answer of 3 February 2009, *Official Report*, column 1124W, how many hits each of the websites maintained by the Department received in each of the last 12 months. [262791]

Mr. Hoon: Tables have been placed in the Libraries of the House showing websites currently maintained by the Department and the page hits received in each of the last 12 months.

Data are unavailable in some instances, either for technical reasons or because the website was not live at the time.

The Department intends to measure website usage in line with the proposed guidance issued by the Central Office of Information, 'Measuring website usage (TG116)', starting from the financial year 2009-10.

Departmental Public Expenditure

Mr. Goodwill: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what estimate he has made of the cost of managing the estates of the *(a)* Vehicle and Operator Services Agency and *(b)* Driving Standards Agency in the last year for which figures are available. [264729]

Mr. Hoon *[holding answer 19 March 2009]:* The information is as follows:

(a) The Vehicle and Operator Services Agency (comprising 180 sites ranging from testing stations to headquarters and administration offices) estimates that the cost of managing its estates is £740,000 for the current financial year.

(b) The Driving Standards Agency (comprising 413 sites ranging from testing stations to headquarters and administration offices) estimates that expenditure for management of the estate incurred in 2008-09 will amount to £2.64 million.

Driving: Multiple Sclerosis

Mr. Gray: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what his policy is on the application of the provisions of the Road Traffic Act 1988 relating to the physical fitness of drivers to persons with multiple sclerosis. [265093]

Jim Fitzpatrick: Multiple sclerosis is a prospective disability under section 92(2) of the Road Traffic Act 1988. A prospective disability is defined as a medical condition, which by virtue of the progressive or intermittent nature of the disability or otherwise, may become a relevant disability in the course of time.

For Group 1 licence holders/applicants (cars and motorcycles), providing a medical investigation confirms that driving performance is not impaired, a driver with multiple sclerosis can be licensed. A one, two or three-year licence may be required.

For Group 2 licence holders/applicants (buses and lorries), a licence will be refused or revoked if the condition is progressive. If driving would not be impaired and the condition is stable, licensing can be considered on a case by case basis subject to satisfactory reports and an annual review.

M25

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how much his Department spent on consultants in respect of proposals to widen stretches of the M25 in each of the last 11 years. [266462]

Paul Clark: The cost of consultants engaged on M25 widening schemes for each of the previous 11 years is set out as follows.

	£000
1997-98	632
1998-99	481
1999-2000	544
2000-01	583
2001-02	609
2002-03	1,257
2003-04	1,229
2004-05	7,925
2005-06	16,068
2006-07	15,037
2007-08	13,350
2008-09	10,447

The above costs relate to consultancy work on the following activities:

M25 J12-15 widening studies

M25 J7-8 anti-clockwise widening

25 J8-10 widening

25 Orbit Multimodal Study

25 J12-15 Widening Preparation

Preparation of the M25 DBFO Contract, specifically:

Traffic and Environmental Studies

Illustrative Design

Contract Preparation

Environmental Statement Publication

Public Exhibitions

Contract negotiations

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport when he plans to award contracts for the next phase of the widening of the M25. [266463]

Paul Clark: The widening of the M25 between Junctions 16 to 23, and Junctions 27 to 30, is included in the scope of the M25 Design, Build Finance and Operate (DBFO) Contract currently in the final stages of procurement.

It is expected that this contract will be awarded in late April 2009, subject to satisfactory completion of statutory processes and completion of the ongoing competition to raise finance for the project.

Motor Vehicles: Environment Protection

Mr. Ancram: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what recent steps he has taken to encourage the use of environmentally-friendly cars. [265130]

Jim Fitzpatrick: In January 2009, the Secretary of State for Transport announced £250 million towards consumer incentives for ultra-low carbon cars. This is in addition to £100 million the Government are already providing to support research, development and demonstration of key technologies for such vehicles.

The UK was in the vanguard of EU member states lobbying for a long term target, which was added to the New Car CO_2 regulation agreement reached in December 2008 between the European Council, Parliament and Commission. The target for 2020 is provisionally set at 95g/km.

The latest strand of the Government's 'Act on CO_2' consumer awareness campaign continues to promote the purchase of more environmentally friendly vehicles as well as the benefits of smarter driving.

Finally, the use and purchase of environmentally friendly vehicles is supported through the current UK taxation system, which is also the basis for the new car fuel economy labelling scheme now used in most car showrooms.

Redundancy

Justine Greening: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport with reference to the answer of 26 November 2008, *Official Report*, column 1370W, on redundancy, how many staff left his Department under staff exit schemes with a severance package worth *(a)* between £100,000 and £125,000, *(b)* between £125,001 and £150,000, *(c)* between £150,001 and £200,000, *(d)* between £200,001 and £250,000, *(e)* between £250,001 and £500,000, *(f)* between £500,001 and £1,000,000 and *(g)* over £1,000,000 in each year since 2005-06. [264290]

Mr. Hoon: Unfortunately a detailed breakdown of staff exits cannot be provided as there are fewer than five exits in most cases. In these cases, the information is suppressed on the grounds of confidentiality.

	Number of exits		
Size of severance package	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*
£100,000 to £125,000	—	—	—
£125,001 to £150,000	—	—	—
£150,001 to £200,000	7	—	—
£200,001 to £250,000	—	—	—
£250,001 to £500,000	—	—	—
500,001 to £1,000,000	—	—	—
Over £1,000,000	—	—	—
Total	19	8	7

Transport: Finance

Stephen Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what assessment he has made of the effect of the economic downturn on his Department's Comprehensive Spending Review target to double real terms spending on transport over the 20 years from 1997. [265945]

Mr. Hoon: Comprehensive Spending Review 2007 (Meeting the aspirations of the British people cm 7227) announced a 2.25 per cent. real growth in the Long-Term Funding Guideline to 2018-19, meaning that over the 20 years from 1997 UK spending on transport would have more than doubled in real terms.

Assessment of the future means of the Long-Term Funding Guideline will be made, as normal, in any future spending review.

SCOTLAND

Departmental Public Consultations

Mr. Vara: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland how many public consultations his Department has conducted in the last 12 months; how long each consultation was open for; how many responses were received in each case; and what the cost of conducting each consultation was. [259697]

Ann McKechin: In the last 12 months, the Scotland Office has undertaken one public consultation, "Sorting the Ballot". This public consultation began on 13 December 2007 and ended on 7 March 2008; an analysis of the 39 responses was published on 24 June 2008. The consultation paper was printed by the Stationery Office at a cost of £1,727 and vetted by the Plain English Campaign at a cost of £311, making a total of £2,038.

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Biofuels

Bill Wiggin: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs when the Environment Agency plans to determine whether used cooking oil may be used as a fuel; and when he plans to determine his policy on this matter. [263592]

Jane Kennedy: The Government have made funding available to enable the Environment Agency to develop an end-of-waste protocol for waste cooking oils. Waste cooking oil which is treated to the standards set out in the protocol is accepted by the agency to have been fully recovered and to have ceased to be waste. The protocol applies to the production of biodiesel for use in automotive engines. The question of whether waste cooking oil has been fully recovered so that it ceases to be waste before it is used as fuel in other circumstances is one that must be determined on the facts of each case and taking into account relevant case law on the definition of waste.

Used cooked oil which has not been fully recovered may also be used as a fuel. However, the use of waste as a fuel is subject to the requirements of the waste framework directive and the waste incineration directive.

Bluetongue Disease: Vaccination

Mr. Martyn Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment he has made of the adequacy of supplies of bluetongue vaccine to respond effectively to an outbreak of the disease in 2009. [263884]

Jane Kennedy: DEFRA underwrote 28 million doses of BTV8 vaccine in 2008, enough for all susceptible animals in England. 12 million of these doses formed the supply at the start of 2009. This along with free market vaccine supplies from the three manufacturers authorised to market vaccine in the UK, Intervet, Merial and Fort Dodge should meet the demand for BTV8 vaccine in 2009.

DEFRA continues to closely monitor the situation in Europe, and engage with experts and manufacturers on the issue of vaccine development and authorisation for other serotypes of bluetongue.

However, currently BTV8 is the only vaccine that can legally be used in the UK, and farmers should not wait for BTV1 or bivalent vaccine to become available this year. We remain at risk from BTV8 and we are working with the industry-led JAB campaign to encourage farmers to vaccinate to protect themselves at the earliest convenient opportunity.

Bovine Tuberculosis

Mr. Paice: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs which *(a)* counties and *(b)* parishes had been free of bovine tuberculosis in the four years prior to (i) 1997 and (ii) 2007. [263720]

Jane Kennedy: The information requested is provided in the tables.

(a)(i) Table 1—Counties[1] in England without a bovine TB incident (unconfirmed or confirmed) 1994-97 inclusive

Animal health region	*County with no bovine TB (unconfirmed or confirmed)*
East	Greater London
East	Isle of Wight
East	Middlesex
West	Isles of Scilly

(a)(ii) Table 2—Counties[1] in England without a bovine TB incident (unconfirmed or confirmed) 2004-07 inclusive

Animal health region	*County with no bovine TB (unconfirmed or confirmed)*
East	Hertfordshire
North	Tyne and Wear
West	Isles of Scilly

(b)(i) Table 3—Number of parishes without a bovine TB incident (unconfirmed or confirmed) by county[1] 1994-97 inclusive

Animal health region	*County*	*Number of parishes with no bovine TB (unconfirmed or confirmed)*	*Percentage of parishes with no bovine TB (unconfirmed or confirmed)*
East	Bedfordshire	116	95.1
East	Berkshire	102	94.4
East	Buckinghamshire	202	97.6
East	Cambridgeshire	267	99.3
East	East Sussex	97	85.8
East	Essex	293	98.3
East	Greater London	14	100.0
East	Hampshire	263	98.1
East	Hertfordshire	135	99.3
East	Isle of Wight	28	100.0
East	Kent	324	98.8
East	Leicestershire	269	92.1
East	Middlesex	19	100.0
East	Norfolk	542	99.6
East	Northamptonshire	261	97.0
East	Oxfordshire	315	97.5
East	Suffolk	475	99.6
East	Surrey	99	96.1
East	Warwickshire	214	96.0
East	West Midlands	27	96.4
East	West Sussex	161	96.4
North	Cheshire	315	93.5
North	Cleveland	34	94.4
North	Cumbria	252	87.8
North	Derbyshire	252	88.7
North	Durham	162	96.4
North	Greater Manchester	69	90.8
North	Humberside	246	97.2
North	Lancashire	209	88.6
North	Lincolnshire	526	97.0
North	Merseyside	35	94.6
North	Yorkshire	984	99.4
North	Northumberland	149	90.9
North	Nottinghamshire	239	96.4
North	Staffordshire	171	86.8
North	Tyne and Wear	29	96.7
West	Avon	69	50.7
West	Cornwall	61	29.0
West	Devon	250	57.6
West	Dorset	214	77.8
West	Gloucestershire	128	48.9
West	Hereford and Worcester	309	70.7
West	Isles of Scilly	5	100.0
West	Shropshire	218	88.3
West	Somerset	222	66.3
West	Wiltshire	209	74.9
Total number of parishes with no TB		9,580	

(b)(ii) Table 4—Number of parishes without a bovine TB incident (unconfirmed or confirmed) by county[1] 2004-07 inclusive

Animal health region	*County*	*Number of parishes with no bovine TB (unconfirmed or confirmed)*	*Percentage of parishes with no bovine TB (unconfirmed or confirmed)*
East	Bedfordshire	120	98.4
East	Berkshire	98	90.7
East	Buckinghamshire	185	89.4
East	Cambridgeshire	267	99.3
East	East Sussex	87	77.0
East	Essex	297	99.7
East	Greater London	14	100.0
East	Hampshire	236	88.1
East	Hertfordshire	136	100.0
East	Isle of Wight	26	92.9
East	Kent	317	96.6
East	Leicestershire	236	80.8
East	Middlesex	18	94.7
East	Norfolk	533	98.0
East	Northamptonshire	240	89.2
East	Oxfordshire	294	91.0
East	Suffolk	470	98.5
East	Surrey	95	92.2
East	Warwickshire	160	71.7
East	West Midlands	24	85.7
East	West Sussex	158	94.6
North	Cheshire	248	73.6
North	Cleveland	32	88.9
North	Cumbria	209	72.8
North	Derbyshire	159	56.0
North	Durham	159	94.6
North	Greater Manchester	69	90.8
North	Humberside	234	92.5
North	Lancashire	216	91.5
North	Lincolnshire	528	97.4
North	Merseyside	34	91.9
North	Yorkshire	934	94.3
North	Northumberland	139	84.8
North	Nottinghamshire	235	94.8
North	Staffordshire	79	40.1
North	Tyne and Wear	30	100.0
West	Avon	40	29.4
West	Cornwall	22	10.5
West	Devon	60	13.8
West	Dorset	134	48.7
West	Gloucestershire	59	22.5
West	Hereford and Worcester	110	25.2
West	Isles of Scilly	5	100.0
West	Shropshire	113	45.7
West	Somerset	150	44.8
West	Wiltshire	131	47.0
Total number of parishes with no TB		8,140	

[1] Counties as recorded on the Animal Health Vetnet system.

Source:

Data for Tables 1-4 have been drawn from the Animal Health Vetnet system, the TB in Cattle System and the Veterinary Laboratories Agency's TB Culture System.

Departmental Rail Travel

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what the cost to his Department was of travel by train by its staff in each year since 1997. [261190]

Huw Irranca-Davies: DEFRA came into being in June 2001. From available information held centrally the cost of travel by train by staff from April 2006 to January 2009 inclusive was as follows:

April 2006 to March 2007: £2,135,127

April 2007 to March 2008: £2,450,197

April 2008 to January 2009: £2,232,893

Fisheries: International Cooperation

Mark Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Stoke-on-Trent North (Joan Walley) of 9 October 2008, *Official Report*, column 732W, on fisheries: international co-operation, whether he plans to make an assessment of the effectiveness of the Joint Committee. [264940]

Huw Irranca-Davies *[holding answer 20 March 2009]*: UK officials have attended these meetings and have found them a useful forum to discuss potential difficulties and agree practical solutions.

Floods: Canvey Island

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs pursuant to the answer of 9 March 2009, *Official Report*, columns 5-6W, on floods: Canvey Island, if he will place in the Library a copy of the recent letter from Councillor Ray Howard to the Environment Agency on development in flood risk areas such as Canvey Island; on what dates the Environment Agency *(a)* received and *(b)* replied to communications from Councillor Howard on the issue in the last three years; what the content of such communications was; and if he will make a statement. [264327]

Huw Irranca-Davies: I have placed a copy of Councillor Ray Howard's recent letter in the Library. The Environment Agency's Eastern Area of Anglian Region has no record of having received or replied to other correspondence from Councillor Ray Howard in the last three years on the subject of development in flood risk areas such as Canvey Island.

Incinerators: Hazardous Substances

Mr. Andrew Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs with reference to the answer of 14 July 2008, *Official Report*, column 32W, on incinerators: waste disposal, if he will publish the results of the public consultation on H14 ecotoxicity testing held in October 2007. [263745]

Jane Kennedy *[holding answer 18 March 2009]:* The results of the consultation were a revision to the Environment Agency's guidance on hazardous waste, WM2 which is published on its website.

Tourism: Rural Areas

Mr. Ellwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what funding his Department makes available to assist tourism in rural areas; and on what criteria such funds are allocated. [262973]

Huw Irranca-Davies: The Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) does not hold lead responsibility for supporting or promoting rural tourism. This sits with the Department for Culture, Media and Sport, DCMS.

However, the Rural Development Programme for England 2007-13, a joint EU-DEFRA funded programme, provides support to improve quality of life in rural areas and diversify the rural economy. This includes support to encourage rural tourism. Over the seven year life of the programme around €38 million (around £35 million), has been allocated to this measure.

This funding has been devolved to regional development agencies to decide how it is spent in their regions to create a sustainable countryside and communities where people want to live, work and visit, now and in the future. The funding will help business to make use of the natural and cultural resources in England's rural areas to attract visitors and create new employment opportunities through the development of the tourism sector. Around £5.8 million has already been committed by the regional development agencies to projects and programmes of investment that support rural tourism.

CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

Cycling

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many velodromes he has visited on official business in the last 12 months. [267024]

Andy Burnham: In the last 12 months I have visited two velodromes on official business.

Departmental Disciplinary Proceedings

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many incidences of *(a)* bullying and (ii) harassment were recorded in his Department in each of the last three years; and how many staff have been subject to disciplinary procedures as a result of such incidents. [266068]

Mr. Sutcliffe: There have been no bullying or harassment cases in the last three years in DCMS.

Gaming Machines

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much and what percentage of the Tote's revenue came from category B2 gaming machines in 2007-08. [265661]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The Tote switched to a new generation of gaming machines in the middle of the 2008 financial year. In its annual report and accounts for 2008, the Tote did not report the mix of revenue between over the counter betting and gaming machine business in its licensed betting offices. This was because the information was deemed by the Tote to be commercially sensitive as it would allow its competitors to benchmark machine performance and inform their choices. That position has not altered and the Tote remains of the view that machine revenue is commercially sensitive information.

Licensing Laws: Music

Mr. Ellwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport when he plans to hold a consultation on exemptions from the Licensing Act 2003 for low risk music events. [265973]

Mr. Sutcliffe *[holding answer 24 March 2009]:* No date has been set for a consultation on this matter. The Department for Culture, Media and Sport continues to consider how best to encourage live music, including the possibility of workable exemptions from the Licensing Act 2003. Any exemption would maintain necessary public protections in accordance with the licensing objectives.

Metal Detecting

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport whether the Government plan to respond to English Heritage's Nighthawking Survey report; and if he will make a statement. [266508]

Barbara Follett: English Heritage is preparing an implementation plan to take forward the recommendations of the Nighthawking Survey; English Heritage expects this to be ready before the summer.

Swimming

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many swimming pools he has visited on official business in the last 12 months. [267030]

Andy Burnham: In the last 12 months I have visited five swimming pools on official business.

Swimming: Finance

Mr. Andy Reed: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport whether local authorities which have currently opted out of the Government's free swimming scheme will have the opportunity to access funding from it at a later date. [265413]

Andy Burnham: We have given those local authorities who withdrew their expression of interest in the under 16s element of the scheme one final opportunity to opt back in before the Free Swimming Programme launches on 1 April. When the scheme is launched, there will not be an opportunity for non-participating local authorities to participate. We will be closely monitoring the impact of the scheme over its two year duration to inform any future funding and delivery arrangements.

HOME DEPARTMENT

Airguns: Children

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what restrictions are in place on the sale of ball-bearing guns to children. [265178]

Mr. Alan Campbell: Ball-bearing guns which fire small plastic pellets are usually referred to as airsoft or BB guns. They are not lethal and are treated in law as imitation firearms. The Violent Crime Reduction Act 2006 made it an offence to sell an imitation firearm to someone aged under 18, and for someone aged under 18 to buy one.

Children: Safety

Mr. Paul Goodman: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what finance and support her Department provided for the production of series *(a)* one, *(b)* two and *(c)* three of the Kids Taskforce Watch over me DVD. [262476]

Mr. Alan Campbell: The Home Office provided the following support and finance for the production of the Kids Taskforce Watch over me DVD.

(a) Series One—No Funding

(b) Series Two—£400,000 (with a small amount going towards research for the third series).

(c) Series Three—No funding outside that mentioned above.

Other support

Additionally, in 2008-09, £480,000 was given from the Home Office and DCSF to the Association of Chief Police Officers (ACPO) to pay for the copyright of The Kids Taskforce Watch Over Me DVDs for three years supplemented by 60 training days for teachers and partners. ACPO, DCSF and the Home Office are working with The Kids Taskforce on the national roll out of the DVD.

The Minister for Security, Counter-Terrorism, Crime and Policing also attended the launch of the third series at a reception at the CEOP Centre on 5 December 2006.

Crime: Motor Vehicles

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many vehicles of each type have been seized in each police force area under section 165A of the Road Traffic Act 1988 in each year since 2005. [264619]

Mr. Alan Campbell: This information is not collected centrally.

I understand from information submitted by police forces to the motor insurance industry's Motor Insurance Database that in 2007 153,822 vehicles were seized under this power for being driven without insurance and that approximately 185,000 were seized in 2008. The type of vehicle is not identified.

Crimes of Violence: Females

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department which Ministers attended her summit on violence against women on 9 March 2009. [265193]

Mr. Alan Campbell: The cross-Government consultation paper entitled 'Together We Can End Violence Against Women and Children' was launched at a breakfast roundtable on Monday 9 March, 2009. Ministers who attended this launch event are:

Rt. Hon. Jacqui Smith, Home Secretary

Rt. Hon. Alan Johnson, Secretary of State for Health

Baroness Morgan of Drefelin, Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State and Government Spokesperson, Department for Children, Schools and Families

Vera Baird, Solicitor-General

Vernon Coaker, Minister of State for the Home Office

Alan Campbell, Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for the Home Office

Crimes of Violence: Telephone Services

Mr. Burrowes: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what freephone 24-hour telephone lines her Department provides for victims of violent crime. [265685]

Mr. Alan Campbell *[holding answer 23 March 2009]*: The Government provide funds to a matrix of national helplines which provide support and information to the public who may be experiencing problems related to violent crime. Of these, the National Domestic Violence Helpline is the only freephone 24-hour telephone line.

In addition, the Government provide funding to Victim Support to provide services to victims of crime and witnesses. Part of the annual Grant in Aid provides funding for the national Victim Support line. This is a telephone helpline offering emotional support and practical advice to victims who call. An annual grant is also provided to SAMM (Support After Murder and Manslaughter). This charity provides support and advice to those bereaved by homicide. Both of these are national helplines but not 24 hours and calls are charged at a local rate.

Detection Rates

Mr. Frank Field: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the detection rate was for incidents of violence against the person reported to the police in each month in the last two years. [262052]

Mr. Alan Campbell *[holding answer 9 March 2009]*: Police forces in England and Wales are asked to provide monthly cumulative data for use in the Home Office's quarterly and annual crime statistics publication. However, the validation processes relate to quarterly rather than monthly data and therefore quarterly data for detection rates for violence against the person are given in the table. Detection rates are a ratio of crimes detected in a period to crimes recorded in a period. They are not based on tracking individual crimes recorded in a period as to whether they are eventually detected.

From 1 April 2007 the rules governing recording of non-sanction detections were revised to reduce the scope within which they can be claimed to a very small limited set of circumstances. This has significantly reduced the number of non-sanction detections which has been reflected in the overall detection rates.

Quarterly detection rates for offences of violence against the person recorded by the police, 2006-07 and 2007-08

Quarter	*Detection rate (Percentage)*
2006-07	
April to June 2006	47
July to September 2006	49
October to December 2006	52
January to March 2007	55
2007-08	
April to June 2007	47
July to September 2007	48
October to December 2007	50
January to March 2008	50

Human Trafficking

Mr. Steen: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much funding was made available to the Metropolitan Police for its Human Trafficking Unit in 2008-09; how much she plans to allocate in 2009-10; what assessment she has made of the unit's work; and if she will make a statement. [260377]

Mr. Alan Campbell *[holding answer 4 March 2009]*: In 2008-09 a total of £600,000 was given by the ACPO lead for Organised Immigration Crime to the Metropolitan Police towards the costs of Operation Maxim, including the dedicated human trafficking team.

The work of the team, as part of the wider Operation Maxim, is highly regarded. But the grant is time-limited with an expectation that this work will be mainstreamed into existing police budgets as part of core business.

Mr. Steen: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer of 4 March 2009 to Question 260378, when she expects to reply to the letters from the hon. Member for Totnes of 24 November 2008 and 22 January 2009 on advice to the Government on the implementation of the Council of Europe Convention on Action Against Trafficking in Human Beings. [264781]

Mr. Alan Campbell *[holding answer 19 March 2009]*: A reply was sent to the hon. Member on 19 March 2009.

Human Trafficking: Europol

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what Europol's targets are for tackling international human trafficking offences. [262575]

Mr. Alan Campbell: Europol's work is central to the United Kingdom's European-wide efforts to combat this heinous crime. In this respect Europol has an excellent working relationship with both the UKHTC and SOCA.

Detailed information on the work carried out by Europol is contained in their Annual Report which we anticipate will be published in the near future.

Human Trafficking: Southampton

Sandra Gidley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what her latest estimate is of the numbers of *(a)* people who have been trafficked into the UK through Southampton and *(b)* victims of human trafficking in Southampton and the surrounding area; what steps are being taken to reduce those numbers; and if she will make a statement. [261410]

Mr. Alan Campbell: The nature of the crime makes it very difficult to estimate the problem faced by the United Kingdom through its ports. However, we have previously estimated that at any one time in 2003 there were up to 4,000 victims of trafficking for sexual exploitation in the UK. We hope to have a new figure by the end of the year.

All estimates are national in scale however. More robust data on the geographical location of victims will be collected with the introduction of the National Referral Mechanism which comes into force on 1 April 2009.

Immobilisation of Vehicles

Mr. Greg Knight: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what changes to regulations regarding wheel clamping on private land she plans to make; and if she will make a statement. [264165]

Mr. Alan Campbell *[holding answer 18 March 2009]*: Ministers have recently received the results of the feasibility study undertaken by the Security Industry Authority (SIA) on the options for the compulsory licensing of vehicle immobilisation companies who work on private land in England and Wales. We are now working with the SIA to develop further their proposals.

Licensed Premises

Dr. Blackman-Woods: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what assessment she has made of the effects of premises with late alcohol licences on levels of disorderly behaviour in the surrounding area. [257992]

Mr. Alan Campbell: The most recently published report, The impact of the Licensing Act 2003 on levels of crime and disorder: an evaluation (2008) by Hough et al, found that violent offences between 3 am and 6 am had increased by 236 incidents in the first year following the introduction of the Act. These offences represent 4 per cent. of all night time offences. Overall the review found that crimes involving violence during the whole evening and night-time had reduced.

To understand what is happening in the 3 am to 6 am period, we will undertake further comprehensive research into post-midnight drinking patterns and their impact on crime and disorder.

The Government are determined to tackle alcohol related crime and disorder, this is why the Home Secretary recently announced a new mandatory code of practice to target the most irresponsible retail practices, a £3 million cash injection for CDRPs for partnership activities in 190 areas and a further £1.5 million for police enforcement in our priority areas.

Dr. Blackman-Woods: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what assessment she has made of the effects of the operation of the Licensing Act 2003 on levels of disorderly behaviour. [257993]

Mr. Alan Campbell: The first review of the Licensing Act reveals a mixed picture. Some people appear to be using the freedoms and are not sufficiently using the considerable powers granted by the Act to tackle problems. There is a need to rebalance action towards enforcement to tackle irresponsible behaviour.

Actions in response to the review of the Licensing Act include: increase the fine for anyone not obeying an instruction to stop drinking in a DPPO area to £2500 from £500, make it easier for the Police to disperse antisocial drinkers, extend the use of acceptable behaviour contracts and to extend the arrest referral pilots to include under 18s. We are working across Government to take these actions forward.

The Government are determined to tackle further alcohol related crime and disorder, this is why the Home Secretary recently announced a new mandatory code of practice to target the most irresponsible retail practices, a £3 million cash injection for CDRPs for partnership activities in 190 areas and a further £1.5 million for police enforcement in our priority areas.

Penalty Notices

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what guidance she has issued to police officers on the issuing of penalty notices for disorder in *(a)* police stations and *(b)* other locations. [265730]

Mr. Hanson: I have been asked to reply.

The Government have issued operational guidance on the issuing of penalty notices for disorder (pnds) to police forces under section 6 of the Criminal Justice and Police Act 2001. This guidance sets out the criteria which should be considered by police officers before issuing a pnd in police stations and other locations.

The current guidance was published in March 2005; a copy can be found at:

www.police.homeoffice.gov.uk/pnd

This is now subject to review.

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

Bahrain: Asylum

Mr. Ancram: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent representations he has received from the Government of Bahrain on the granting of asylum to Bahraini citizens in the UK. [265391]

Bill Rammell: The issue of asylum was most recently discussed between the Bahraini Minister of the Interior, Sheikh Rashid, and my hon. Friend the Minister for Borders and Immigration in the Home Office on 12 March.

The Government have received no formal representations but the subject has occasionally been discussed at official level with Bahraini Interlocutors.

Burma: Religious Freedom

John Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs (1) what representations he has made to the Burmese Government over the recent closure of house churches and Christian-run orphanages in Rangoon; [264920]

(2) what reports he has received of the number of orphanages and child care centres run by Christian groups in Rangoon that have recently closed down. [264921]

Bill Rammell: We are concerned by reports that the Burmese authorities have closed places of worship for religious minorities and child care centres run by Christian groups in Rangoon. We condemn the marginalisation or persecution of any community based on their religious beliefs or ethnic background. Although it makes the reported abuses no less serious, we believe that the persecution of religious minority groups by the Burmese authorities is often based on their ethnicity and perceived threat to security rather than their faith. We view the regime's actions as part of a wider deterioration in the human rights situation in Burma.

The issue of religious freedom is within the mandate of UN Special Rapporteur for Human Rights in Burma, Tomas Ojea Quintana, which covers human rights and fundamental freedoms. We hold regular discussions with Mr. Quintana and his team concerning the human rights abuses we believe to be taking place in Burma, and fully support his efforts. Our ambassador in Burma regularly raises the issue of human rights in his meetings with Burmese Government officials.

Hezbollah

Mr. Dismore: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs for what reasons the Government have changed their policy on engaging with Hezbollah's political wing. [264754]

Bill Rammell: This is in light of more positive recent political developments in Lebanon, which have moved Lebanon away from the polarised and tense political scene of previous years. This includes progress in national reconciliation talks and the formation of the National Unity Government in which Hezbollah are participating. We believe that occasional and carefully considered contacts with Hezbollah's political representatives will best advance our objective of urging Hezbollah to reject violence and play a constructive, democratic and peaceful role in Lebanese politics in line with UN Security Council Resolutions.

Andrew Gwynne: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what information his Department holds on violations of UN Security Council resolutions 1559 (2004) and 1701 (2006) by Hezbollah and other armed groups in Lebanon. [265980]

Bill Rammell: The UN Secretary General reports quarterly to the Security Council on the implementation of United Security Council Resolution (UNSCR) 1701. The latest report was issued in March 2009.

The UN Secretary General's final report to Members on UNSCR 1559 was issued in October 2008. This provided an update on progress in the implementation of the resolution and highlights areas of concern that continue to impede efforts to strengthen Lebanon's sovereignty, territorial integrity and political independence.

All these reports are available on the UN website at:

http://www.un.org/Docs/sc/sgrep09.htm.

Andrew Gwynne: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what reports he has received of Hezbollah's renunciation of the use of violence. [265981]

Bill Rammell: We regret that Hezbollah has not yet renounced the use of violence. However we assess that there is a distinction between those members of Hezbollah who are legitimately involved in Lebanese politics and those who are involved in violence and terrorism. We proscribed the military wing in July 2008. We continue to urge Hezbollah to reject violence and play a constructive, democratic and peaceful role in Lebanese politics, in line with UN Security Council Resolutions.

Andrew Gwynne: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs (1) what steps he has taken to encourage the Governments of *(a)* Syria and *(b)* Iran to prevent the replenishment of missile stocks held by Hezbollah in Lebanon; [265982]

(2) what steps he has taken to prevent funding being provided to Hezbollah by the Governments of *(a)* Syria and *(b)* Iran. [265983]

Bill Rammell: We call on both the Governments of Syria and Iran to cease their support for Hezbollah, which only increases instability in the region. During my right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary's visit to Syria in November 2008, he raised this issue with President Assad. We have serious concerns about Iranian support for Hezbollah. Such support is unacceptable and only serves to undermine regional security. Funding for arms supplies to Hezbollah is contrary to the arms embargo established by United Nations Security Council Resolution 1701.

Andrew Gwynne: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what estimate he has made of the number of *(a)* long- and *(b)* short-range missiles held by Hezbollah in Lebanon. [265984]

Bill Rammell: Since the end of the 2006 Lebanon conflict, we estimate that Hezbollah has replenished its holdings of short and long-range rockets and missiles. This is based upon both statements by Hassan Nasrallah, Secretary General of Hezbollah and other sources of information. However, we lack definitive figures.

Andrew Gwynne: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what discussions he had with *(a)* President Assad and *(b)* Foreign Minister Muallem on establishing contact with Hezbollah during his visit to Syria in November 2008; and what response was received from each. [265985]

Bill Rammell: My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary did not raise the issue of establishing contact with Hezbollah during his visit to Syria in November 2008.

Andrew Gwynne: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs when his Department last made an assessment of Hezbollah's involvement in terrorist activity; and what the findings of that assessment were. [265986]

Bill Rammell: In July 2008 a thorough assessment of all the components of Hezbollah was carried out to establish a distinction between those members of Hezbollah who are legitimately involved in Lebanese politics and those who are involved in violence and support terrorism. As a result of this assessment the decision was made by the Home Office to proscribe the military wing, which we specified as the Jihad Council and all units reporting to it.

Andrew Gwynne: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what his latest estimate is of the *(a)* size and *(b)* strength of Hezbollah's militia; and what reports he has received on progress towards its disarmament. [265987]

Bill Rammell: Hezbollah has not revealed its armed strength publicly, and estimates vary widely. These estimates suggest that Hezbollah's militia consists of a small core of experienced fighters supplemented with much larger numbers of volunteers/reservists.

The latest Secretary General Report on United Nations Security Council Resolution (UNSCR) 1701 stated that Hezbollah continues to maintain a substantial military capacity distinct from that of the Lebanese State, in direct contravention of UNSCRs 1559 and 1701. The report welcomes the national dialogue as a means to take forward disarmament through a Lebanese-led political process.

All these reports are available on the UN website at:

http://www.un.org/Docs/sc/sgrep09.htm.

Middle East: Armed Conflict

Jeff Ennis: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs (1) what reports he has received on the *(a)* physical and *(b)* psychological effects of rocket and mortar attacks fired from the Gaza Strip on residents in southern Israel; [265958]

(2) what reports he has received on the disruption to the education of the school pupils of southern Israel as a result of rocket and mortar attacks fired from the Gaza Strip. [265959]

Bill Rammell: Our ambassador and officials from our embassy in Tel Aviv frequently travel to towns in southern Israel that have been subject to indiscriminate rocket fire from terrorist groups in Gaza. They have called on schools, hospitals, families and community leaders in and around Sderot and Ashkelon to assess the impact of rocket and mortar attacks. My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary also visited Sderot in November 2008, and I went to Ashkelon in December 2008. In recent months the frequency and indiscriminate nature of the attacks that target citizens has had a highly damaging impact on people's everyday lives in these areas. The extent of the psychological damage, especially to children, is clear. In addition to the psychological damage to children, the need to shelter from attacks whilst at school has had a disruptive effect on education. Likewise, the general disruption and physical threat of rocket fire has impeded economic growth and deterred investment. We continue to condemn all terrorist attacks, on southern Israel and elsewhere.

Middle East: Peace Negotiations

Mr. Ancram: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will discuss with the US Administration the likely effects of recent developments in the political situation in Israel on the middle east peace process. [265399]

Bill Rammell: We are in regular dialogue with the US Administration. My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary met with both the US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton and Senator Mitchell on 18 March 2009. They discussed a number of issues related to the middle east peace process. Both the US and the UK look forward to working with a new Israeli Government towards a lasting peace in the region.

North Korea: Politics and Government

Mr. Ancram: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent discussions he has had with the US Administration on the political situation in North Korea. [265398]

Bill Rammell: My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary has regular conversations with the US Secretary of State, but they have not discussed North Korea recently. However, our embassy in Washington is in regular contact with US officials dealing with North Korea and we are co-ordinating positions closely in response to North Korea's plan to launch a satellite next month.

Pakistan: Foreign Relations

Mr. Ancram: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what discussions he has had with the President of Pakistan in the last four weeks. [265436]

Bill Rammell: I have been in regular contact with President Zardari. My discussions covered a number of issues including the appointment of Sir Sherard Cowper-Coles as the UK's Special Representative for Afghanistan and Pakistan, stability in Pakistan's federally administered tribal areas and the Swat region, prosecuting those responsible for the attacks in Mumbai and the recent political crisis in Pakistan. On the latter I encouraged all parties to come together in the interests of Pakistan and seek a peaceful resolution.

Palestinians: Politics and Government

Mr. Andrew Turner: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment he has made of the implications for the future of the Palestinian Government of Prime Minister Fayyad's decision to stand down; and if he will take steps to ensure that the Middle East peace process includes a unified Palestinian Government. [264688]

Bill Rammell: Mr Fayyad is still the Prime Minister of the Palestinian Government. The UK will continue to work towards a unified Palestinian Government. In Cairo, on 25 February 2009, my right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary stated his support for Egyptian-sponsored efforts towards building a non-partisan, technocratic Government capable of working productively with the international community, which would allow Palestinians to focus jointly on economic development and preparation for elections. I re-emphasised this during the Foreign Affairs Committee evidence session on 4 March 2009.

Washington

Mr. Heathcoat-Amory: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many visits were made by Ministers to Washington DC in the financial year 2007-08. [264569]

Bill Rammell: There were 36 ministerial visits to Washington DC from April 2007 through to March 2008.

OLYMPICS

Inspire Mark

Mr. Andy Reed: To ask the Minister for the Olympics (1) how many sports clubs have been awarded the Inspire mark; [265400]

(2) how many sports projects have been awarded the Inspire mark; [265401]

(3) how many projects have been awarded the Inspire mark. [265402]

Tessa Jowell: The Inspire mark is awarded by the London Organising Committee of the Olympic Games and Paralympic Games (LOCOG) to high quality non-commercial projects and programmes inspired by 2012 that deliver achievements in sport, culture, volunteering, the environment and promoting business opportunities.

So far, 93 projects have been awarded the Inspire mark, of which 18 have a significant sporting element.

This first pilot phase for the mark has been predominantly cultural where, alongside nationwide projects and programmes from across all legacy themes, local projects across the nations and regions have been joining the Cultural Olympiad from its launch in September 2008. LOCOG will be targeting and supporting activity across all themes, including sport, this year.

Olympic Games 2012: Construction

Tom Brake: To ask the Minister for the Olympics how many people over the age of 21 defined by the Government Olympic Executive as local have undertaken training placements as part of the Olympic construction process. [259332]

Tessa Jowell: For the month of December 2008, 303 people on the Olympic Park declared themselves as a trainee or an apprentice; 69 of these held a permanent address in one of the five host boroughs and stated that they were over 21 years of age.

In addition to this, to date 315 other individuals have benefited from training at the Plant Training centre on the Olympic Park operated by the National Construction College (NCC). As the centre is managed by a third party we do not hold the age data of candidates. However, 313 of these held a permanent address in one of the five host boroughs.

Both sets of activity form part of the of the Olympic Delivery Authority's aim to place at least 2,250 people into trainee, apprenticeship, and work placements up to 2012.

Mr. Jamie Reed: To ask the Minister for the Olympics how many companies are engaged in building venues for the London 2012 Olympics; and how many of these businesses are based in the UK. [263704]

Tessa Jowell: There are currently seven Tier One contractors engaged in building venues for the London 2012 Olympic Games and Paralympic Games and all of these are registered in the UK. These include:

Company	*Venue*
Balfour Beatty Group Ltd.	Aquatics Centre
Carillion plc	International Broadcast Centre/ Main Press Centre
Dean & Dyball Ltd.	Weymouth and Portland Sailing Academy
ISG Interior/Exterior plc	Velodrome
Sir Robert McAlpine Ltd.	Olympic Stadium
Galliford Try Infrastructure Ltd (trading as Morrison Construction)	White Water Canoe Centre
Lend Lease Ltd.	Olympic Village

The Tier One contractors for Eton Dorney and the shooting venue are yet to be confirmed.

To the end of January 2009, 881 businesses had won over £3.5 billion of work supplying the Olympic Delivery Authority; 98 per cent. are UK-based businesses, and just under half are based outside of London (45 per cent.).

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Minister for the Olympics what recent discussions she has had with the Minister responsible for horticulture on landscaping projects for the London Olympics 2012. [263875]

Tessa Jowell: The Landscape and Public Realm project has developed through extensive planning, consultation and design work involving local, metropolitan and national stakeholders, as well as the expertise of internationally recognised individuals and organisations.

As part of this consultation programme, the Olympic Delivery Authority has consulted regularly with Natural England—the Government body tasked with the promotion of nature conservation and the enhancement of the natural landscape—and other stakeholders including the Environment Agency, British Waterways, the Lee Valley Regional Park Authority, the GLA's Biodiversity Unit and the Forestry Commission. The ODA, with the latter two organisations, has funded research into species selection in relation to climate change.

We are committed to inclusive consultation and have encouraged as many people as possible to take the opportunity to contribute to the design of the emerging Olympic Park.

Mr. Jamie Reed: To ask the Minister for the Olympics how many non-UK European Union nationals are employed in the construction of the venues for the London 2012 Olympics. [263899]

Tessa Jowell: The figures for the contracted workforce at the end of October 2008, and released by the Olympic Delivery Authority (ODA) in December 2008, show that 86 per cent. of those employed on the Olympic Park were EU nationals, 63 per cent. of these were British and 8 per cent. were Irish. The number of non-UK European nationals employed on the Olympic Park at that time was therefore 23 per cent. These figures are a snap shot of the workforce at a particular point in time. All vacancies are advertised locally. The ODA and its partners have a range of measures in place to ensure local people can benefit from the employment and training opportunities that arise on the park.

Olympic Games 2012: Cumbria

Mr. Jamie Reed: To ask the Minister for the Olympics what assessment the Government Olympic Executive has made of the economic effects of the London 2012 Olympics on *(a)* Cumbria and *(b)* Copeland constituency. [263705]

Tessa Jowell: We are fully committed to maximising the economic benefits of the London 2012 Games across the UK particularly in these challenging economic times.

We aim to do this through direct business opportunities from the London Organising Committee and Olympic Delivery Authority's (ODA) procurement. London 2012 expects to procure directly in the region of £6 billion worth of contracts, which will generate 75,000 supply chain opportunities.

The London 2012 Business Network was specifically set up to provide businesses across the UK with access to contracts in the London 2012 supply chains, and any support they need to compete for them.

I would encourage my hon. Friend to urge businesses in his constituency to register on CompeteFor, the electronic brokerage service for buyers and suppliers. Encouraging more businesses to register will ensure that they are in the running for Games related business. To the end of January 2009, 35 businesses registered in the North West had won a contract directly supplying the ODA. This includes one business registered in Cumbria. To date, no businesses registered in Copeland have won direct contracts.

There are also wider opportunities for businesses beyond those in the construction supply chains, such as those arising in the tourism and media sectors and through inward investment and export.

In addition, there will be skills initiatives such as the Personal Best programme which uses Games-inspired volunteering to help people to develop their skills for work. Building on the success of London, the North West will be one of the first regions to benefit by introducing this programme.

Mr. Jamie Reed: To ask the Minister for the Olympics what plans she has to involve schools *(a)* in Copeland constituency, *(b)* in Cumbria and *(c)* elsewhere in the UK in events organised in as part of the London 2012 Olympics. [263709]

Tessa Jowell: We committed in our Legacy Action Plan to get thousands of schools and colleges throughout the country inspiring young people through the Olympic and Paralympic values and taking part in sport and other activities.

We are creating a world class PE and sport system, able to offer every child five hours per week of quality sporting opportunities, including a broader range of non-traditional activities. Schools are central to our offer, and School Sports Partnerships—such as Copeland SSP, where 92 per cent. of pupils now participate in at least two hours per week—are playing a leading role in expanding the numbers of young people participating in sport.

The London Organising Committee of the Olympic Games and Paralympic Games (LOCOG) has developed 'Get Set', the London 2012 Education programme which was launched in September 2008. This provides a variety of online resources for teachers and schools to use, as well as information on getting involved in Olympic-related events, such as last year's 'Make Your Mark' challenge which involved some 56,000 young people. LOCOG has also just launched a national competition for 16 to 21-year-olds in full or part-time education to create a new design to infill the London 2012 brand, creating a new official London 2012 education logo.

According to LOCOG's latest figures, 3,676 schools, colleges and other education providers throughout the UK have registered to be part of 'Get Set'. 300 of these are based within the north-west region, and 47 within Cumbria itself. Statistics are not collated on a constituency basis. A full list of registered schools, and of activities, is available at

www.london2012.com/getset

Olympic Games 2012: Expenditure

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Minister for the Olympics how much had been spent on the Olympic stadium at the latest date for which figures are available; and what the estimated final cost of the stadium is. [256585]

Tessa Jowell: At the end of December 2008 £72 million had been spent on the Olympic Stadium project.

The budget announced at the end of 2007 for the Olympic Stadium was £496 million. This was increased to £504 million to include £8 million of structural enhancements to the roof in relation to loading requirements for the opening and closing ceremonies.

A number of potential cost pressures, estimated at £43 million, have been identified arising from:

Possible scope requirements, including separate amendments to roof loading and provision for an external wrap;

Contract negotiations and the development of the design.

Olympic Games 2012: Job Creation

Mr. Jamie Reed: To ask the Minister for the Olympics what her most recent estimate is of the number of permanent full-time jobs likely to result from the London 2012 Olympics. [263719]

Tessa Jowell: The latest stage of the Legacy Masterplan Framework (which will provide the blueprint for the regeneration of the Olympic Park and its surroundings) indicates that as a direct result of the London 2012 games the Olympic Park site has the potential to deliver 9,000-10,000 permanent jobs after the games. This is part of wider regeneration plans contained in the Lower Lea Valley Opportunity Area Planning Framework to deliver 50,000 jobs in the Lower Lea Valley area.

Additionally, we anticipate significant employment opportunities during the lifetime of the programme. The Olympic Delivery Authority expects that 30,000 people will be employed on the Olympic Park and the Village over the life of the build project. This number will peak at 11,000 in 2010.

PRIME MINISTER

Future Aircraft Carriers

Q12. **Dr. Julian Lewis** To ask the Prime Minister what factors he has identified as causing delays in the construction of the future aircraft carriers.

Ms Harman: I have been asked to reply.

I refer the hon. Member to the written statement made by my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Defence on 11 December 2008, *Official Report*, columns 65-66WS.

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Darfur

6. **Tony Baldry:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what recent assessment he has made of the humanitarian situation in Darfur; and if he will make a statement. [266029]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The humanitarian situation in Darfur remains critical. The expulsion of 13 international NGOs and the closure of three national NGOs risks having a devastating impact. The UN Office for Humanitarian Affairs initially estimated that up to 1 million people could lose access to drinking water and sanitation, and up to 1.5-million will lose access to healthcare. We believe the Government of Sudan should reconsider this decision for the sake of their own people.

Gaza

7. **Mr. Swire:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what recent assessment he has made of the humanitarian situation in Gaza. [266030]

8. **Rosie Cooper:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what assessment he made of the humanitarian situation in the Gaza strip upon his recent visit to the region. [266031]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: I was horrified by what I saw in Gaza. It is clear that the humanitarian situation remains dire. Even now, nine weeks after the conflict ended, 97 per cent. of the population receive food aid, 50,000 people remain without running water and 10 per cent. of people still have no access to electricity. Over 15,000 homes have been destroyed or badly damaged and some families are housing up to 40 people in their homes.

12. **Lynda Waltho:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what recent assessment he has made of the humanitarian situation in Gaza. [266036]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: The humanitarian situation in Gaza remains dire. According to United Nations (UN) figures, even now, nine weeks after the conflict ended, 97 per cent. of the population receive food aid, 50,000 people remain without running water and 10 per cent. of people still have no access to electricity. Over 15,000 homes have been destroyed or badly damaged, as well as businesses and farms.

I have pledged £30 million to support the first phase of reconstruction, known as 'early recovery'. This will help the most vulnerable people in Gaza rebuild their lives and ensure delivery of basic services.

G20 Summit

10. **Andrew George:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what discussions he has had with ministerial colleagues on the Government's approach to the development agenda for the G20 summit. [266034]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: I have regular discussions with the Prime Minister, the Chancellor of the Exchequer and other members of the Cabinet as part of our ongoing preparations for the April 2 London summit. These discussions include international development issues.

Our goal for the London summit is for leaders to agree to immediate action to support the global economy, safeguard jobs and protect the poorest. We know from past crises that it is the poorest who suffer most. The Government are working hard to make sure that the London summit agrees concrete actions to protect the poorest countries and most vulnerable people.

China

11. **Mr. Holloway:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what funding his Department has allocated to its bilateral aid programme for China for the next three years; and if he will make a statement. [266035]

Mr. Michael Foster: The allocations to China in 2009-10 and 2010-11 are £30 million and £20 million respectively. Any allocations for subsequent years will be determined during the next comprehensive spending round.

13. **Mr. Robathan:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what funding his Department has allocated to its bilateral aid programme for China for 2009-10; and if he will make a statement. [266037]

Mr. Michael Foster: The allocation for China in 2009-10 is £30 million.

Aid Distribution Mechanisms

14. **Nia Griffith:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what recent steps his Department has taken to improve its mechanisms for public accountability for its distribution of aid; and if he will make a statement. [266038]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: In line with the 2006 International Development (Reporting and Transparency) Act, the Department for International Development (DFID) provides annual reports to Parliament on the provision and use made of aid, and on aid-effectiveness and transparency. DFID has also established the Independent Advisory Committee on Development Impact to ensure independent, open, and transparent scrutiny of our development assistance. DFID is also committed to the International Aid Transparency Initiative, launched at the Accra High Level Forum on Aid Effectiveness in September 2008, which will make information about aid more available and accessible, helping the public to hold donors and Governments to account for the effective use of aid.

Burma: EU Aid

John Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what estimate he has made of the amount of EU cross-border aid to Burma in *(a)* 2007 and *(b)* 2008; and if he will make a statement. [265453]

Mr. Michael Foster: Comprehensive information on cross-border aid to Burma is not available.

In 2007 the Department for International Development (DFID) agreed that its funding to the Thailand Burma Border Consortium (TBBC) may be used for cross-border programmes of support to internally displaced people in eastern Burma. DFID's contribution to TBBC was £770,000 in 2007-08 and £1 million in 2009-09. DFID has not stipulated what proportion of these contributions should be allocated to cross-border programmes. DFID plans to give £1.1 million to TBBC in 2009-10, a 10 per cent. increase over 2008-09.

Several other EU member states, as well as the European Commission, give funding to TBBC. Overall the EU contributed about 55 per cent. of TBBC's income in 2008. The Commission does not allow its contributions to be used for Thailand Burma cross-border programmes. Other member states have their own individual policies on how their funding to TBBC may be used.

DFID and the European Commission both contribute to cross-border health care provision from China to Kachin and Shan States in Burma. We estimate that spending on this programme, by UK financial year, was approximately:

2007-08—£571,000 (£235,000 from the Commission; and £336,000 from DFID)

2008-09—£426,000 (£204,000 from the Commission; and £222,000 from DFID)

Overseas Aid

Mr. Gray: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what mechanisms to ensure co-ordination between countries which give aid to developing nations the UK participates in; and if he will make a statement. [264833]

Mr. Michael Foster: The UK Government strongly support and promote co-ordination among donors on both policy and implementation. At the global level the UK participates fully in co-ordination, for example through the Development Assistance Committee of the Organisation of Economic Co-operation and Development and the UN Development Co-operation Forum. The UK strongly supports the 2005 Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness and the 2008 Accra Agenda for Action (AAA) which contain specific commitments by donor countries and recipients to better co-ordinate development efforts. The UK is on target to meet all Paris Declaration targets by 2010.

In accordance with Paris targets, UK seeks to align its country programmes with partner country priorities and to harmonise and co-ordinate with other donors. This is achieved through Joint Assistance Strategies with other donors, in support of partner Governments setting out their development policies and how they wish donors to provide development assistance. The UK also co-ordinates closely with other donors in co-financing partner country programmes.

Overseas Aid: Water

Mrs. Curtis-Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development pursuant to the Answer of 16 March 2009, *Official Report*, column 873W, on Africa: water, how his Department's budget for its five-year water, sanitation and hygiene education programme is to be distributed. [265773]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The Department for International Development (DFID) in 2008 committed £1 billion over five years to increase our efforts to improve access to water and sanitation in Africa. This funding will be distributed through our country programmes in those African countries that are currently most off-track in making progress against the millennium development goals (MDGs)—most notably, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Ethiopia, Nigeria, Sierra Leone and the Sudan.

Further information on DFID's water and sanitation policy is available in the 2008 strategy "Water: an increasingly precious resource, Sanitation: a matter of dignity" which is on the DFID website:

http://www.dfid.gov.uk/pubs/files/water-sanitation-policy-08.pdf

Sudan: Armed Conflict

John Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what estimate he has made of the monthly death rate in Darfur from *(a)* violence and *(b)* disease or malnutrition. [265472]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: It is not possible to obtain regular mortality figures in Darfur or to disaggregate by cause. The UN Emergency Relief Co-ordinator, John Holmes, has suggested that the conflict in Darfur may have caused up to 300,000 deaths since the beginning of the conflict in 2003.

Sudan: Internally Displaced Persons

John Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what estimate he has made of the number of displaced persons in Darfur in each of the last five years. [265363]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The UN Office for the Co-ordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) has estimated that the number of people still internally displaced in Darfur at the end of each of the last five years as follows:

	Number
2004	1,843,091
2005	1,790,096
2006	2,060,420
2007	2,420,970
2008	2,667,682

John Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what recent estimate he has made of the number of internally displaced persons in camps in Darfur. [265474]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The most recent estimate for internally displaced people (IDPs) in Darfur was undertaken by the UN Office for the Co-ordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) in January 2009, which reported 2,667,682 IDPs.

Sudan: Overseas Aid

John Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what the level of UK humanitarian aid to Darfur was in each of the last five years. [265473]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The Department for International Development (DFID) does not systematically disaggregate humanitarian aid by region within Sudan. Most of DFID's humanitarian funding is channelled through the Common Humanitarian Fund (CHF) or appeal funding to the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC). According to Good Humanitarian Donorship principles, we cannot earmark funding by region within these instruments.

Sudan: Politics and Government

John Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what representations he has made to the Sudanese Government on the expulsion of aid agencies from Sudan. [265396]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The British ambassador has urged the Government of Sudan (GoS) to allow NGOs to continue their work. The European Union (EU) issued a statement on 10 March calling upon GoS to urgently reconsider their decision, and ensure that continued humanitarian assistance to the most vulnerable people in Sudan be restored. European Foreign Ministers discussed the situation again on 16 March and reiterated this message. We have, through official and ministerial level contacts, urged China, Russia, and Sudan's African and Arab neighbours to press GoS to reverse their decision. The Secretary of State discussed this issue with regional African leaders, including Prime Minister Meles of Ethiopia, in the margins of the Africa Outreach meeting on 16 March. We have both had meetings with John Holmes, the UN's Emergency Relief Co-ordinator. The UN is having extensive discussions with GoS in country.

Zimbabwe: Overseas Aid

John Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what the level of UK humanitarian aid to Zimbabwe will be in 2009-10. [265454]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The UK has provided approximately £49 million in the financial year 2008-09 to Zimbabwe to tackle the humanitarian crisis. We envisage a similar scale of support for 2009-10 dependent on the political situation.

NORTHERN IRELAND

Departmental Official Hospitality

Mr. Rob Wilson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland (1) what his Department's entertainment budget was in each of the last five years; [261109]

(2) how much his Department has spent on *(a)* alcohol and *(b)* food in each of the last five years. [261161]

Mr. Woodward: The Northern Ireland Office (NIO) records expenditure for entertainment, alcohol and food, under the description of either hospitality or catering. Due to the high volume of transactions within these expenditure areas it would be possible to extract the information only at disproportionate cost.

The Northern Ireland Office's finance system is unable to provide prior year budget figures for five years, however, the following table shows the NIO's expenditure, excluding agencies and executive NDPBs, on hospitality and catering in the last five years:

	Hospitality and catering expenditure (£000)
2007-08	326
2006-07	575
2005-06	271
2004-05	236
2003-04	336

Hospitality events include Royal Garden Parties and receptions hosted at Hillsborough Castle, which acknowledge the contribution made by a wide range of people to life in Northern Ireland. These include representatives from the voluntary and business sectors and also the police and armed forces. The additional spending in 2006-07 is due to hospitality and catering costs relating to the political talks held at St. Andrews.

All expenditure has to be incurred in accordance with the principles of Managing Public Money and the Treasury handbook on Regularity and Propriety.

Departmental Public Consultation

Mr. Vara: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many public consultations his Department has conducted in the last 12 months; how long each consultation was open for; how many responses were received in each case; and what the cost of conducting each consultation was. [259695]

Mr. Woodward: My Department, excluding agencies and non-departmental public bodies, conducted 13 public consultations in the last 12 months. Of the 13 consultations, all were 12 weeks long with the exception of number seven and nine which were 19 and 16 weeks respectively. The following table shows how many responses were received in each case and what the cost of conducting each consultation was.

Consultation number	Number of responses received in each consultation	Cost of conducting each consultation[1] (£)
1	0	92.52
2	8	0
3	4	356.54
4	11	2,681.22
5	3	0
6	15	0
7	22	2,235.83
8	6	0
9	82	31,994.84
10	11	2,126.77
11	13	2,088.09
12	15	250.00
13	29	109.30

[1] In the cost of conducting each consultation staff time has not been taken into account.

Political Parties: Finance

Andrew Mackinlay: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland with reference to the letter from the hon. Member for Thurrock of 12 March 2009, on donations by Irish citizens and bodies to Northern Ireland political parties, if he will bring forward legislative proposals to prohibit a registered political party in Great Britain from transferring or donating funds to a registered political party in Northern Ireland. [266279]

Paul Goggins: Irish citizens and bodies may donate to Northern Ireland political parties but not to parties in Great Britain. To ensure that donations from Irish citizens and bodies cannot be made indirectly to parties in Great Britain, section 71C of the Political Parties, Elections and Referendums Act 2000 prevents Northern Ireland political parties from donating to recipients in Great Britain. There are no plans to bring forward legislative proposals to prevent parties in Great Britain from donating to Northern Ireland recipients.

Andrew Mackinlay: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland with reference to the letter from the hon. Member for Thurrock of 12 March 2009, on donations by Irish citizens and bodies to Northern Ireland political parties, if he will bring forward legislative proposals to restrict the list of permissible donors to registered political parties in Northern Ireland to those who are *(a)* resident and *(b)* registered as electors in (i) the UK and (ii) the Irish Republic. [266280]

Paul Goggins: The list of those permitted to donate to registered political parties in Northern Ireland includes those specified in section 54(2) of the Political Parties, Elections and Referendums Act 2000. In 2007, Parliament also agreed that the list should be extended to include Irish citizens and bodies specified in the Political Parties, Elections and Referendums Act 2000 (Northern Ireland Political Parties) Order 2007. There are no plans to further amend the list of permissible donors who may donate to Northern Ireland political parties.

TREASURY

Bank Notes

Mr. Gordon Prentice: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the value of the monetary notes of each denomination of sterling paper currency in circulation on the latest date for which figures are available. [265823]

Ian Pearson: The following table summarises the total value of Bank of England notes in circulation as of 27 February 2009.

	Bank of England notes in circulation (value in £ million)
£5	1,302
£10	6,304
£20	28,089
£50	8,691
Total	44,386

The following table shows the figures reported for commercial banks that issue their own banknotes. These are estimates based on information reported to HM Revenue and Customs for the average of the four-week period ending 24 January 2009. Where numbers do not sum this is due to rounding.

	Total value of notes of denomination £5 and upwards	Total value of notes of denomination under £5	Estimated commercial notes in circulation (value in £ million) total
Bank of Ireland	614.8	0.3	615.0
First Trust Bank	333.8	0	333.8
Northern Bank Ltd	304.9	0.4	305.3
Ulster Bank Ltd	466.7	0	466.7
Bank of Scotland	954.1	4.0	958.1
Royal Bank of Scotland	1.147.1	16.8	1,163.9
Clydesdale Bank	1,158.2	0	1,158.2

Banks: Finance

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what restrictions *(a)* his Department and *(b)* the Financial Services Authority have placed on the use of public money used to recapitalise British banks to provide loans made by banking subsidiaries of those banks operating outside the United Kingdom. [259863]

Ian Pearson: On 8 October 2008 the Government announced measures to support the stability of the financial system, protect ordinary savers, depositors, businesses and borrowers, and to safeguard the interests of the taxpayer.

As part of their investment, the Government agreed with the banks supported by the recapitalisation scheme a range of commitments. Details are available at

http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/press_105_08.htm.

The Government's investment is managed on a commercial basis by UK Financial Investments Ltd. (UKFI), a company which is wholly owned by the Government. Its overarching objectives are to protect and create value for the taxpayer as a shareholder, with due regard to financial stability and acting in a way that promotes competition.

Borrowing: Insurance

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what recent complaints his Department has received from recipients of financial loans regarding payment protection insurance; and what recent investigations the Financial Services Authority has carried out on reported mis-selling of payment protection insurance on loans. [265594]

Ian Pearson: The Department has not received any complaints from recipients of financial loans regarding payment protection insurance in 2009.

The second part of the question, on recent investigations, is a matter for the Financial Services Authority, and I have asked them to reply to the hon. Member.

Departmental Databases

Mrs. Laing: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many *(a)* records and *(b)* data categories there are in (i) the pay as you earn database, (ii) the Self Assessment database, (iii) the Tax Credits database, (iv) the Employment Framework, (v) the Citizen Identification Framework, (vi) the Primary and Secondary Tracking Framework, (vii) the National Insurance Recording system and (vii) the Child Benefit system. [265739]

Mr. Timms: The following table shows the number of records within the identified systems. There are many data categories of different kinds within each of the identified systems. A count of them all could be produced only at disproportionate cost.

	Number (million)
PAYE	58
Self Assessment	15.5
Tax Credits System	11.1
Citizen Identification Framework	77
Primary Tracing Framework	[1]77 individuals [2]7.7 employers
Secondary Tracing Framework	[1]80 individuals
Employments Framework	[3]282 employments [2]7.7 employers
National Insurance Recording System	71
Child Benefit System	11

[1] Individuals
[2] Employers
[3] Employments

Departmental Training

Mr. Hands: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the Answer of 28 January 2009, *Official Report*, column 585W, which Ministers attended each of the three courses; what the names of the courses were; and how much these courses cost. [265666]

Angela Eagle: As previously answered, identifying Ministers who undertake training would, or would be likely to, discourage participation in future training sessions, acting as a disincentive for Ministers to undertake formal professional development. Ministers have undertaken one Action Learning Set course and two media training courses. As previously disclosed, the cost of the three courses was £1,285.

Financial Services Authority: Standards

Justine Greening: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) how many firms did not meet the Financial Services Authority's December 2008 Treating Customers Fairly scheme deadline; and what steps the authority took as a consequence; [265922]

(2) what criteria the Financial Services Authority used to determine whether a firm used unfair arrears management practice in its Treating Customers Fairly scheme; [265924]

(3) how many Arrow assessments the Financial Services Authority has *(a)* conducted to date and *(b)* planned for 2009 under its Treating Customers Fairly scheme; [265925]

(4) what mechanisms are in place to deal with firms which did not meet the Financial Services Authority's December 2008 deadline for its Treating Customers Fairly scheme; [265926]

(5) which firms are on the Financial Services Authority's Arrow Firm watch list; and how many have had *(a)* one assessment, *(b)* two assessments, *(c)* three assessments, *(d)* four assessments and *(e)* more than five assessments since the implementation of the Authority's Treating Customers Fairly scheme; [265927]

(6) what review processes are used in an Arrow assessment by the Financial Services Authority; [265928]

(7) what estimate he has made of the number of customers dealt with by firms that did not comply with the Financial Services Authority's Treating Customers Fairly scheme in each of the last three years; [265929]

(8) what estimate he has made of the number of customers dealt with by firms on the Financial Services Authority's Arrow firm watch list in each of the last three years; [265930]

(9) how many *(a)* mainstream and *(b)* specialist lenders have been subject to Financial Services Authority investigation of their arrears management practices in each of the last three years; and how many were subsequently penalised; [265931]

(10) how many *(a)* mainstream and *(b)* specialist lenders were under supervision by the Financial Services Authority over their arrears management practices in each of the last three years; [265932]

(11) how many *(a)* mainstream and *(b)* specialist lenders have not met the Financial Services Authority's Treating Customers Fairly scheme conditions since the scheme's inception; [265933]

(12) what the targets to assess a firm's compliance with the Financial Services Authority's Treating Customers Fairly scheme are. [265934]

Ian Pearson: The matters raised in these questions are the responsibility of the Financial Services Authority, whose day to day operations are independent from Government control and influence. I have asked the FSA to write to the hon. Member.

Public Works Loan Board

Mr. Hands: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the answer of 11 March 2009, *Official Report*, column 420W, on the Public Works Loan Board, how much local authority debt borrowed from the Public Works Loan Board has been repaid in each of the last 18 months. [265872]

Angela Eagle: The amount of Public Works Loan Board debt repaid in each of the 18 months from 1 September 2007 is listed as follows:

Date	£ *Total repayments*
September 2007	412,584,781.86
October 2007	563,850,128.68
November 2007	415,834,729.99
December 2007	413,830,421.43
January 2008	47,483,918.05
February 2008	199,675,819.66
March 2008	89,419,576.25
April 2008	651,801,918.32
May 2008	46,457,906.64
June 2008	223,444,893.01
July 2008	188,963,829.36
August 2008	34,531,557.91
September 2008	102,715,176.96
October 2008	441,690,409.52
November 2008	716,463,247.15
December 2008	113,386,943.43
January 2009	2,726,948,213.64
February 2009	193,517,071.47

Quantitative Easing

Mr. Newmark: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer for what purposes his Department plans to use the £75 billion of Bank of England gilt purchases. [265652]

Ian Pearson: The Government's annual financing requirement is unaffected by purchases of gilts by the Bank of England. The impact of the Bank of England's purchases of gilts, which are bought by the Bank on the secondary market, is to increase the volume of gilts that are held by the Bank of England's Asset Purchase Facility Fund (BEAPFF) and to increase cash in the hands of the entities that have sold the gilts

Trident

Nick Harvey: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer when his Department's Major Projects Review Group is expected to complete its review of the future nuclear deterrent capability programme. [264970]

Yvette Cooper: Major Projects Review Group reviews are timetabled to suit the overall timetable of the project being reviewed. The Major Projects Review Group is expected to review the future nuclear deterrent programme in the second half of 2009. Each review takes approximately six to eight weeks to complete.

Written Questions: Government Responses

Justine Greening: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer when he plans to answer Question 244470, on the Modernisation Fund, tabled on 11 December 2008. [265552]

Yvette Cooper: I have now replied to the hon. Member and apologise for the delay.

Justine Greening: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer when he plans to answer Question 242249, on staff severance packages, tabled on 5 December 2008. [265557]

Angela Eagle: I have now done so.

JUSTICE

Alternatives to Prison: Finance

Mr. Grieve: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the budget for custody diversion teams was in *(a)* 2008-09, *(b)* 2007-08, *(c)* 2006-07 and *(d)* 2005-06. [258339]

Mr. Straw: The Government believe that serious, dangerous and seriously persistent offenders should be sent to prison. A range of initiatives offer alternatives to custody where appropriate. None bears the name 'custody diversion team'.

The Youth Justice Board runs two programmes delivering high intensity community alternatives to custody for young offenders under 18 years of age. These are the intensive supervision and surveillance programme (ISSP) and the intensive fostering (IF) programme. ISSP is available nationally; intensive fostering is being piloted in a programme that commenced in 2006-07. The budget for these programmes is listed in the table.

Budgets for intensive supervision and surveillance (ISSP) and intensive fostering (IF) programmes 2005-06 to 2008-09

Programme	*2008-09*	*2007-08*	*2006-07*	*£ million* *2005-06*
ISSP	34.0	33.4	32.0	32.0
IF	4.1	1.5	1.5	—

The seven intensive alternative to custody (IAC) projects, outlined in my announcement on 5 December 2007, provide courts with enhanced community sentencing options, combining intensive supervision and demanding interventions to punish and reform adult offenders. The projects are designed to use current legislation to maximise the use of the community order in those cases where the court may be considering custody but where a community sentence may be more effective in reducing reoffending. The Government have made available a total of £13.9 million over three years (£2.7 million in 2008-09; £5.5 million in 2009-10 and £5.7 million in 2010-11).

Adult offenders sentenced to Community Payback have, since 1 December 2008, been required to wear distinctive high visibility clothing to ensure that members of the public are aware when Community Payback by offenders is taking place. Intensive Community Payback of a minimum of 18 hours per week over three days is now available in all probation areas for unemployed offenders convicted of knife crime offences.

The Government announced on 13 February 2009 investment of £15.6 million over two years to divert vulnerable women, who are not serious or dangerous offenders, from custody.

There are other related strands of work including the Bail Accommodation and Support Service and mental health services.

Departmental Training

Mr. Hands: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice pursuant to the answer of 29 January 2009, *Official Report*, columns 740-1W, which Ministers in his Department attended the six action learning set training courses; and how much those courses cost. [265668]

Mr. Wills: The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Justice my hon. Friend the Member for Lewisham, East (Bridget Prentice) and my noble Friend, Lord Hunt of Kings Heath, then Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Justice attended the six action learning set courses, at a total cost of £1,400.

Driving Offences: Hampshire

Sandra Gidley: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many people in each age group have been *(a)* charged and *(b)* convicted of driving offences of each type in (i) Southampton and (ii) the ceremonial county of Hampshire in each of the last five years. [264913]

Mr. Malik: The number of proceedings at magistrates courts and findings of guilt at all courts for driving offences in Hampshire from 2003 to 2007 (latest available), broken down by age group are given in the following tables.

Charging data are not collected centrally and prosecutions data are given in lieu. Information is collected at police force area level; figures for Southampton are not available.

Data for 2008 will be available in the autumn of 2009.

Table 1: Number of persons proceeded against at magistrates courts for various motoring offences within Hampshire police force area by age group, 2003-07[1,2]

Number of offences

		2003			2004			2005		
Offences group	*Offence type*	*under 21*	*21 and over*	*Total*	*under 21*	*21 and over*	*Total*	*under 21*	*21 and over*	*Total*
1	Causing death or bodily harm	—	11	11	6	4	10	2	12	14
2	Dangerous driving	87	181	268	93	191	284	60	156	216
3	Driving etc. after consuming alcohol or taking drugs	557	3,484	4,041	563	3,558	4,121	493	3,206	3,699
4	Careless driving	290	1,097	1,387	249	1,158	1,407	240	926	1,166
5	Accident offences	177	709	886	165	695	860	123	493	616
6	Unauthorised taking or theft of motor vehicle	663	480	1,143	579	359	938	500	348	848
7	Driving licence related offences	3,111	9,528	12,639	2,649	9,005	11,654	2,103	7,099	9,202
9	Vehicle insurance offences	3,571	11,721	15,292	3,057	11,311	14,368	2,481	8,953	11,434
10	Vehicle registration and excise licence offences	354	8,482	8,836	347	8,237	8,584	233	5,776	6,009
11	Work record and employment offences	—	745	745	—	633	633	—	274	274
12	Operator's licence offences	—	63	63	1	68	69	—	27	27
13	Vehicle test offences	2,140	7,929	10,069	1,671	6,861	8,532	1,189	4,926	6,115
14	Fraud, forgery etc., associated with vehicle or driver records	44	380	424	38	348	386	27	176	203
15	Vehicle or part in dangerous or defective condition	266	973	1,239	181	724	905	137	476	613
16	Speed limit offences	333	5,344	5,677	286	4,339	4,625	333	3,178	3,511
17	Motorway offences(other than speeding)	9	78	87	8	96	104	7	57	64
18	Neglect of traffic directions	108	654	762	156	577	733	151	646	797
19	Neglect of pedestrian rights	30	71	101	13	78	91	34	62	96
20	Obstruction, waiting and parking offences	1	151	152	1	99	100	—	30	30
21	Lighting offences	101	377	478	58	166	224	17	48	65
22	Noise offences	26	109	135	22	80	102	19	50	69
23	Load offences	6	213	219	1	138	139	—	95	95
24	Offences peculiar to motor cycles	72	11	83	61	20	81	102	27	129

Table 1: Number of persons proceeded against at magistrates courts for various motoring offences within Hampshire police force area by age group, 2003-07[1] [2]

Number of offences

		2003			2004			2005		
Offences group	*Offence type*	*under 21*	*21 and over*	*Total*	*under 21*	*21 and over*	*Total*	*under 21*	*21 and over*	*Total*
25	Miscellaneous motoring offences	139	1,479	1,618	137	1,808	1,945	112	2,172	2,284
	Total all offences	12,085	54,270	66,355	10,342	50,553	60,895	8,383	41,153	49,536

Number of offences

		2006			2007		
Offences group	*Offence type*	*under 21*	*21 and over*	*Total*	*under 21*	*21 and over*	*Total*
1	Causing death or bodily harm	3	3	6	3	22	25
2	Dangerous driving	40	134	174	56	123	179
3	Driving etc. after consuming alcohol or taking drugs	464	2,782	3,246	425	2,730	3,155
4	Careless driving	192	818	1,010	253	1,273	1,526
5	Accident offences	103	399	502	135	495	630
6	Unauthorised taking or theft of motor vehicle	425	245	670	544	352	896
7	Driving licence related offences	1,390	5,077	6,467	1,202	4,204	5,406
9	Vehicle insurance offences	1,721	6,767	8,488	1,458	5,567	7,025
10	Vehicle registration and excise licence offences	244	5,113	5,357	167	3,447	3,614
11	Work record and employment offences	1	268	269	—	73	73
12	Operator's licence offences	—	16	16	—	10	10
13	Vehicle test offences	594	2,765	3,359	275	1,252	1,527
14	Fraud, forgery etc., associated with vehicle or driver records	10	128	138	12	95	107
15	Vehicle or part in dangerous or defective condition	82	322	404	62	241	303
16	Speed limit offences	299	4,680	4,979	433	4,891	5,324
17	Motorway offences(other than speeding)	5	57	62	6	36	42
18	Neglect of traffic directions	100	500	600	108	510	618
19	Neglect of pedestrian rights	25	62	87	25	45	70
20	Obstruction, waiting and parking offences	2	45	47	1	41	42
21	Lighting offences	26	52	78	23	66	89
22	Noise offences	9	20	29	2	16	18
23	Load offences	—	44	44	1	33	34
24	Offences peculiar to motor cycles	96	35	131	93	18	111
25	Miscellaneous motoring offences	117	1,935	2,052	126	2,498	2,624
	Total all offences	5,948	32,357	38,305	5,410	28,038	33,448

[1] It is known that for some police force areas, the reporting of court proceedings in particular those relating to summary motoring offences, may be less than complete.
[2] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

Source:
Office for Criminal Justice Reform - Evidence & Analysis Unit [Ref: IOS 161-09]

Table 2: Number of persons found guilty at all courts for various motoring offences within Hampshire police force area by age group, 2003-07[1] [2] [3]

Number of offences

		2003			2004			2005		
Offences group	*Offence type*	*under 21*	*21 and over*	*Total*	*under 21*	*21 and over*	*Total*	*under 21*	*21 and over*	*Total*
1	Causing death or bodily harm	—	7	7	2	4	6	2	4	6
2	Dangerous driving	53	114	167	49	104	153	43	89	132
3	Driving etc. after consuming alcohol or taking drugs	509	3,154	3,663	519	3,224	3,743	455	2,917	3,372
4	Careless driving	243	848	1,091	190	918	1,108	201	675	876
5	Accident offences	130	451	581	120	411	531	91	291	382

Table 2: Number of persons found guilty at all courts for various motoring offences within Hampshire police force area by age group, 2003-07[1, 2]

Number of offences

		2003			2004			2005		
Offence group	*Offence type*	*under 21*	*21 and over*	*Total*	*under 21*	*21 and over*	*Total*	*under 21*	*21 and over*	*Total*
6	Unauthorised taking or theft of motor vehicle	397	232	629	395	186	581	348	214	562
7	Driving licence related offences	2,260	6,572	8,832	1,985	6,088	8,073	1,556	4,910	6,466
9	Vehicle insurance offences	2,536	8,086	10,622	2,214	7,627	9,841	1,809	6,198	8,007
10	Vehicle registration and excise licence offences	293	6,834	7,127	290	6,848	7,138	208	4,899	5,107
11	Work record and employment offences	—	520	520	—	532	532	—	230	230
12	Operator's licence offences	—	40	40	1	50	51	—	19	19
13	Vehicle test offences	1,359	5,082	6,441	1,036	4,141	5,177	721	3,024	3,745
14	Fraud, forgery etc., associated with vehicle or driver records	32	259	291	30	232	262	18	126	144
15	Vehicle or part in dangerous or defective condition	213	755	968	155	557	712	113	363	476
16	Speed limit offences	319	5,044	5,363	272	4,032	4,304	313	4,813	5,126
17	Motorway offences(other than speeding)	7	66	73	8	83	91	6	54	60
18	Neglect of traffic directions	84	534	618	125	466	591	119	525	644
19	Neglect of pedestrian rights	26	68	94	11	66	77	27	46	73
20	Obstruction, waiting and parking offences	1	113	114	1	70	71	—	28	28
21	Lighting offences	79	285	364	41	115	156	15	29	44
22	Noise offences	21	85	106	14	55	69	16	38	54
23	Load offences	6	192	198	1	133	134	—	50	50
24	Offences peculiar to motor cycles	65	9	74	50	13	63	87	22	109
25	Miscellaneous motoring offences	96	1,086	1,182	107	1,385	1,492	82	1,681	1,763
	Total all offences	8,729	40,453	49,182	7,656	37,342	44,998	6,228	31,243	37,471

		2006			2007		
Offence group	*Offence type*	*under 21*	*21 and over*	*Total*	*under 21*	*21 and over*	*Total*
1	Causing death or bodily harm	4	5	9	3	9	12
2	Dangerous driving	29	88	117	36	88	124
3	Driving etc. after consuming alcohol or taking drugs	427	2,556	2,983	405	2,571	2,976
4	Careless driving	157	626	783	213	1,057	1,270
5	Accident offences	74	264	338	106	303	409
6	Unauthorised taking or theft of motor vehicle	335	172	507	431	220	651
7	Driving licence related offences	1,094	3,718	4,812	1,055	3,482	4,537
9	Vehicle insurance offences	1,346	5,019	6,365	1,277	4,614	5,891
10	Vehicle registration and excise licence offences	197	4,177	4,374	131	2,876	3,007
11	Work record and employment offences	1	100	101	—	64	64
12	Operator's licence offences	—	14	14	—	7	7
13	Vehicle test offences	373	1,703	2,076	214	863	1,077
14	Fraud, forgery etc., associated with vehicle or driver records	9	87	96	8	58	66
15	Vehicle or part in dangerous or defective condition	70	256	326	51	218	269
16	Speed limit offences	279	4,365	4,644	408	4,512	4,920
17	Motorway offences(other than speeding)	5	47	52	5	28	33
18	Neglect of traffic directions	66	500	566	93	443	536
19	Neglect of pedestrian rights	21	49	70	16	37	53
20	Obstruction, waiting and parking offences	1	33	34	1	31	32
21	Lighting offences	20	36	56	15	55	70

		2006			2007		
Offence group	Offence type	under 21	21 and over	Total	under 21	21 and over	Total
22	Noise offences	7	16	23	1	11	12
23	Load offences	—	41	41	—	30	30
24	Offences peculiar to motor cycles	87	32	119	86	17	103
25	Miscellaneous motoring offences	100	1,474	1,574	91	1,916	2,007
	Total all offences	4,720	25,462	30,182	4,646	23,508	28,154

[1] It is known that for some police force areas, the reporting of court proceedings in particular those relating to summary motoring offences, may be less than complete.
[2] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.
[3] The numbers found guilty may exceed those proceeded against in table 1, as it may be the case that the proceedings in the magistrates' court took place in the preceding year to the defendant being found guilty at the Crown Court in the following year, or the defendant was found guilty for a different offence to the original offence proceeded against.
Source:
Office for Criminal Justice Reform - Evidence & Analysis Unit (Ref: IOS 161-09)

Fines: Enforcement

Mr. Burrowes: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many times he has exercised his power to deduct funds from an offender's income support payments in the pursuance of enforcement of a *(a)* fine and *(b)* compensation order under section 24 of the Criminal Justice Act 1991 in each of the last five years. [illegible]

Bridget Prentice: The following table shows the number of Deductions from Benefit Orders imposed by the courts under the Courts Act 2003 Fines Collection Scheme since April 2006 to February 2009, the latest date for which data are available. Full data are only available from April 2006 and cannot be broken down between fines and compensation.

Financial year orders	Number of deductions from benefits
April 2008 to February 2009	274,307
2007-08	216,462
2006-07	241,913

Firearms

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what sentencing guidelines apply to convictions for offences arising from the purchase and use of ball-bearing guns; and if he will make a statement. [265776]

Mr. Hanson: Ball-bearing guns which fire small plastic pellets are usually referred to as airsoft or BB guns and are treated in law as imitation firearms.

The maximum sentence for possession of an imitation firearm in a public place is 12 months imprisonment, or a £5,000 fine, or both. The Magistrates Courts Sentencing Guidelines have a starting point of a high level community order for carrying a loaded air weapon, with a sentencing range of a medium level community order to 26 weeks custody.

It is an offence for someone under 18 to purchase or hire an air weapon or ammunition for an air weapon; the maximum penalty is six months' detention or a £5,000 fine, or both. There are no sentencing guidelines for this offence.

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what estimate he has made of the number of *(a)* prosecutions and *(b)* convictions for offences involving ball-bearing guns in each of the last three years. [265778]

Mr. Malik: It is not possible from the statistics collected centrally on the Ministry of Justice Court Proceedings Database to distinguish offences relating to ball bearing guns, or more accurately airsoft weapons, from other imitation firearms.

Governance of Britain: Public Consultation

Mrs. Laing: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many *(a)* organisations and *(b)* individuals were specifically invited to comment on the National Framework for Greater Citizen Engagement discussion paper. [265737]

Mr. Wills: Approximately 1,000 organisations and individuals from the Governance of Britain stakeholder database were alerted via e-mail to the publication of the National Framework for Greater Citizen Engagement discussion paper. The discussion paper, which was made available on line and in hard copy, invited views on proposals for the greater use of engagement mechanisms by national Government.

HM Court Service: Redundancy

Mr. Grieve: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many redundancies HM Court Service expects to make in 2009-10. [264664]

Mr. Straw: Her Majesty's Courts Service has no current plans to make redundancies during the financial year 2009-10.

Land Registry

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice in relation to how many low value personal injury claim cases the Land Registry has authorised surveillance operations on employees; what the cost of conducting surveillance was in each case; who authorised the hiring of private investigators in such cases; and what procedures are followed by the Land Registry to ensure that any surveillance of staff by private investigators is proportionate. [265532]

Mr. Wills: Land Registry has drawn no distinction between the value of personal injury claims. There have been six personal injury claims in Land Registry where controlled and limited surveillance was authorised on employees. These were all part of one overall investigation.

The cost of conducting the surveillance in each case was as follows:

	Cost of conducting surveillance (£)
Case 1	587.50
Case 2	5,287.50
Case 3	10,960
Case 4	7,050
Case 5	8,812.50
Case 6	8,812.50

The costs awarded to Land Registry following the successful defence and withdrawal of the claims exceeded these amounts. The authorisation of the surveillance was given by the then acting director of HR.

In deciding to authorise surveillance, Land Registry considered the seriousness of the issue, the potential cost of the case and the impact on the organisation's core business and weighed this against the potential impact on the privacy of the individuals and their friends and family as well as the ongoing employment relationship. The surveillance was restricted to public environments, which limited the level of intrusion. The nature of this as a test case established a likelihood of high costs in the defence of the case, in payments to individuals if the cases were found proven and potentially in significant change to the organisations core business processes and the equipment used. With supporting legal advice it was agreed that the surveillance was a proportionate and justified action in defending this case.

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many unfair dismissal cases were brought against the Land Registry in each of the last two years; how many of them were settled before a hearing in each year; how many of them progressed to a full hearing; how many of these cases were lost by the Land Registry in each year; what costs were awarded against the Land Registry in relation to such cases in each year; and what the cost of *(a)* solicitors' and *(b)* barristers' fees for such cases was in each year. [265534]

Mr. Wills: Seven unfair dismissal cases were brought against Land Registry in 2007-08. 10 unfair dismissal cases were brought against Land Registry in 2008-09.

One case was settled in 2007-08. No cases were settled in 2008-09.

No unfair dismissal cases progressed to full hearing in either 2007-08 or 2008-09.

As no unfair dismissal cases progressed to a hearing, none have been lost by the Land Registry in either 2007-08 or 2008-09.

There were no costs awarded against Land Registry for unfair dismissal in either 2007-08 or 2008-09.

Solicitors' fees for such cases in 2007-08 were £5,739.49 and in 2008-09 were £33,099.30.

Barristers' fees for such cases in 2007-08 were £1,353.50 and in 2008-09 were £6,067.70.

All 2008-09 figures are as of 24 March 2009.

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many personal injury claims have been brought against the Land Registry in each of the last two years; how many out-of-court settlements of such cases there were in each year; what the cost to the Land Registry was of such cases in each year; how many cases progressed to court in each year; and what the cost for *(a)* medical advice and *(b)* legal advice of defending these cases was in each year. [265535]

Mr. Wills: 14 personal injury claims have been brought against the Land Registry in 2007-08 and 10 in 2008-09.

There was one out-of-court settlement in 2007-08 and one in 2008-09.

The cost to Land Registry of such cases in 2007-08 was £1,200 and in 2008-09 was £1,575.

No cases have progressed to court in either 2007-08 or 2008-09.

The cost for medical advice in defending these cases in 2007-08 was £305.50 and in 2008-09 was £517.

The cost for legal advice of defending these cases in 2007-08 was £2,132.63 and in 2008-09 was £34,906.08.

All 2008-09 figures are as of 24 March 2009.

Land Registry: Manpower

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many people the Land Registry *(a)* employs and *(b)* employed in each of the last five years. [265244]

Mr. Wills: The information requested is contained within the following table. The figures reflect the headcount (rather than full-time equivalent) of full and part-time payroll staff, on-strength. The full-time equivalent figure would be lower.

As at 1 March each year	*Headcount*
2009	7,785
2008	8,147
2007	8,342
2006	8,440
2005	8,707

Magistrates Courts: Hertfordshire

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many cases were heard in the magistrates courts in *(a)* Hemel Hempstead and *(b)* Hertfordshire in each year since 1997. [265809]

Bridget Prentice: The number of defendants proceeded against at magistrates courts, heard at magistrates courts and committed for trial at the Crown Court, for all offences in Hertfordshire police force area, 1997 to 2007 is contained in the table.

Information held centrally cannot be broken down to constituency or court level, thus Hertfordshire police force area data have been provided in lieu.

These data are on the principal offence basis. The figures given in the table on court proceedings relate to persons for whom these offences were the principal offence for which they were dealt with. When a defendant has been found guilty of two or more offences, the offence selected is the one for which the heaviest penalty is imposed. Where the same disposal is imposed for two or more offences, the offence selected is the offence for which the statutory maximum penalty is the most severe.

Court proceedings data for 2008 will be available in the autumn of 2009.

Number of defendants proceeded against at magistrates courts, heard at magistrates courts and committed for trial at the Crown court, for all offences in Hertfordshire police force area, 1997 to 2007[1,2]

		Of which:	
	Proceeded against	*Heard at magistrates courts*[3]	*Committed for trial at the Crown court*
1997	25,450	24,567	883
1998	28,270	27,586	684
1999	27,368	26,540	828
2000	28,507	27,575	932
2001	27,380	26,476	904
2002	28,825	27,792	1,033
2003	33,377	32,219	1,158
2004	37,088	35,892	1,196
2005	38,134	36,802	1,332
2006	34,584	33,223	1,361
2007	30,661	29,614	1,047

[1] These data are on the principal offence basis.

[2] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts, and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

[3] Includes proceedings discontinued, discharged, withdrawn, dismissed, and found guilty at the magistrates courts.

Source:

OCJR—E & A: Office for Criminal Justice Reform—Evidence and Analysis Unit

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what percentage of sentences imposed in magistrates courts in *(a)* Hemel Hempstead and *(b)* Hertfordshire were appealed against to the Crown Court in each year since 1997. [265810]

Bridget Prentice: Information is only available for Hertfordshire on the number of offenders sentenced and the number of appeals against sentences and convictions from 1997-2007, which is set out in the table. It is not possible to calculate a percentage between these two methods of counting, as one counts offenders and the other offences.

Hertfordshire

	Total sentenced	*Total appealed against sentence*[1]
1997	18,185	56
1998	20,217	143
1999	20,058	142
2000	20,246	143
2001	19,404	121
2002	20,076	102
2003	23,820	116
2004	26,091	118
2005	27,431	156
2006	25,661	176
2007	23,704	153

[1] Figures include appeals against both conviction and sentence

Magistrates Courts: Hertfordshire

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many trials in magistrates courts in *(a)* Hemel Hempstead and *(b)* Hertfordshire did not take place on the initial agreed date of hearing in each year since 1997. [265811]

Bridget Prentice: Information is only available on the number of trials that failed to take place on the agreed hearing date in each year since 2003 in the magistrates courts in Hertfordshire. This information is set out in the following table:

Period	*Total number of trials*	*Number of trials which did not take place on agreed date*
2003-04	3,546	2,314
2004-05	3,805	2,403
2005-06	5,322	3,307
2006-07	5,064	2,862
2007-08	4,492	2,450

National Offender Management Information System

Mr. Grieve: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice which private sector prisons have access to Prison-NOMIS. [264667]

Mr. Straw: Prison-NOMIS will be deployed to public prisons from spring 2009 to summer 2010. Following on from that roll-out, the needs of the contracted-out prisons (COPs) will be addressed. The approach to individual COPs may vary depending on their own internal IT systems and either Prison-NOMIS could be deployed to a COP or an interface with the COP's existing case management system and Prison-NOMIS could be established.

Provided that adequate additional funding was made available, all COPs would gain access to Prison-NOMIS by one means or another. Consequently, there would be no detraction from public safety.

Offenders: Ex-servicemen

Mr. Garnier: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what systems of identification and support the Probation Service operates for offenders who have previously served in the armed forces. [265825]

Mr. Hanson: There is currently no dedicated identification system for ex-servicemen and women under Probation supervision. This will change with the introduction of P-NOMIS which contains specific data entry field for ex-service offenders. In the interim, we will send out a notice under a Probation circular to highlight services provided by ex veterans charities, and support available as part of the veterans prison in-reach initiative.

Prison Sentences

David Howarth: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many recategorisation reviews for Category A prisoners *(a)* have been undertaken and *(b)* involved an oral hearing in each year since 2000. [265978]

Mr. Hanson: Category A prisoners have their categorisation reviewed once yearly by staff at the prison in which they are held. Every five years their categorisation will be subject to a formal review by the Director of High Security. The exact number of reviews is not centrally recorded. There has only been one oral hearing which was held in 2002.

Prison Service: Manpower

Mr. Garnier: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice pursuant to the answer of 26 February 2009, *Official Report*, column 994W, on prisons: manpower, how many prison officers at each grade there were in each prison in England and Wales on 31 March in each year from 1997 to 2004. [265829]

Mr. Malik: Information on the number of officers in each establishment (public and private sector), by grade, in each year from 1997 to 2004 has been placed in both Libraries of the House.

Prison Service: Vetting

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice whether people applying to become *(a)* prison officers and *(b)* other prison service staff are required to have a Criminal Records Bureau check. [266170]

Mr. Hanson: Criminal record checks are undertaken for all staff (prison officers and other staff) working in prison establishments. Criminal Records Bureau disclosure checks are undertaken on all staff working with young persons under the age of 18.

Prisons: Alcoholic Drinks

Mr. Garnier: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what estimate he has made of *(a)* the number and *(b)* the proportion of prisoners diagnosed with alcohol problems in each prison in England and Wales, in each of the last 10 years. [265702]

Mr. Hanson: A number of studies have provided a picture of the alcohol-related problems experienced by those entering prisons:

Research[1] carried out by the Office for National Statistics (ONS) in 1997 stated that 63 per cent. of sentenced males and 39 per cent. of sentenced females reported a hazardous drinking pattern in the year before coming into prison. This figure rises to 70 per cent. in the case of young adult offenders. The numbers who are physically dependent on alcohol, which can be defined as those who need alcohol detoxification (Tiers 3 and 4 of Models of Care for Alcohol Misusers (MoCAM)), are much lower at around 8 per cent. of females and 7 per cent. of males.

The Surveying Prisoner Crime Reduction (SCPR) study[2], a large national longitudinal survey of newly sentenced adult prisoners, reported in 2008 that 36 per cent. of the sample could be classified as heavy drinkers. However, heavy drinking—defined as drinking more than twice the recommended sensible daily limits—is not directly comparable to the hazardous drinking category used in the ONS report.

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[1] Substance misuse among prisoners in England and Wales. Further analysis of data from the ONS survey of psychiatric morbidity among prisoners, Singleton N, Farrell M and Meltzer H (1999) Office for National Statistics

[2] The problem and needs of newly sentenced prisoners: results from a national survey, Stewart. D (2008). MOJ Research Series 16/08.

Mr. Garnier: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how much has been spent on services countering the effects of alcohol in prisons in each of the last 10 years. [265827]

Mr. Hanson: A range of interventions are available in prisons to support those with an alcohol problem:

clinical services—alcohol detoxification is available in all local and remand prisons;

where alcohol is part of a wider substance misuse problem, the full range of drug interventions are available;

a number of prisons run alcohol awareness courses;

Alcoholics Anonymous (AA) run groups in over 65 per cent. of prisons;

some offending behaviour programmes address the underlying factors which occur in alcohol related crime;

an accredited 12-step alcohol programme is being run at HMP Bullingdon;

a further Cognitive Behavioural Alcohol Programme has been piloted at HMP Hull, Forest Bank, Glen Parva and Chelmsford;

for those prisons involved in the roll-out of the Integrated Drug Treatment System (IDTS) a 90 minute alcohol awareness session has been developed; and

the young persons substance misuse service for 16 to 18-year-old prisoners has a particular focus on alcohol.

The Ministry of Justice has established a working group to develop proposals to increase the provision of alcohol treatment available in prisons. The number of prisoners accessing services specifically aimed at their alcohol misuse is not collated centrally.

Prisons: Activities

Mr. Garnier: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what steps he plans to take consequent on the assessment in the latest annual report of HM Chief Inspector of Prisons that activity levels are still not high enough in nearly half of training prisons. [265703]

Mr. Hanson: HM Chief Inspector of Prisons annual report 2007-08 called for increases in activity. It also acknowledged that there has already been an overall improvement. During the period 2005-08, the number of hours per prisoner per week increased from 26.1 to 28 hours in Category B prisons and 25.9 to 26.1 hours in Category C prisons.

The National Offender Management Service, in partnership with the Learning and Skills Council, is working to improve education and training provision by prioritising activities according to individual learner need and on focusing on activities which develop skills for employment. Efficiencies to maximise the take up of education and training places will increase purposeful activity hours.

We are increasing training workshop places in prisons in partnership with the private sector. This includes increasing the number of prison information and communications training academies, in partnership with CISCO Systems; a partnership with Timpsons, whose core business is shoe and watch repair and engraving; and a tool repair workshop with Travis Perkins.

The education assessment undertaken for the report by Ofsted and Estyn (Wales) reported that in 2007-08 76 per cent. of prisons education passed inspection.

This compares with just 22 per cent. in 2002-03. The number of prisoners taking part in education has increased by one-third since 2006.

The prison capacity programme aims to ensure that there are sufficient training and employment places within new prisons or where significant expansion within existing prisons takes place.

Witnesses: Protection

Andrew George: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what assistance is available to witnesses who give evidence in cases of alleged antisocial behaviour by neighbours, to protect them against possible retaliatory action by those neighbours. [265380]

Mr. Alan Campbell: I have been asked to reply.

The Home Office is responsible for the policy on antisocial behaviour.

The use of hearsay evidence in civil proceedings involving antisocial behaviour allows witnesses to remain anonymous. We have also put in place measures to allow for the identities of those too fearful to give evidence to be protected in antisocial behaviour orders (ASBOs) cases.

The Serious Organised Crime and Police Act 2005 introduced special measures for witnesses in proceedings for ASBOs. These measures were introduced to address concerns about the protection of vulnerable and intimidated witnesses. The measures include screening witnesses from the defendants, giving evidence through video link or in private, and the use of video recorded evidence. Special dedicated antisocial behaviour response courts have been established in magistrates' courts sitting in their civil capacity to ensure that witness issues are addressed. Local agencies have developed efficient case management systems which include working in partnership with key agencies to provide support to victims after court proceedings. In addition the Home Office has issued a good practice guide to practitioners on how best to support victims and witnesses of antisocial behaviour through the whole length of the witness pathway. A range of detailed guidance is set out on the Home Office's website on antisocial behaviour website.

Young Offenders: Custodial Treatment

Tim Farron: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many people in custody under the age of 18 years were required to share living accommodation with other convicted persons over the age of 18 years for at least part of their time in custody in the last 12 months. [266456]

Mr. Hanson: Information on the number of young people (16 to 17-year-olds) who have been required to share accommodation with young adults (18 to 21-year-olds) is not collected centrally.

Young people are not routinely required to share accommodation with young adults. They will only do so in a small number of cases where there are exceptional circumstances, such as the need to manage disruptive and violent behaviour, and where this is considered to be the preferred course of action.

Tim Farron: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many people under the age of 18 years were held in *(a)* custody, *(b)* junior detention centres, *(c)* prisons, *(d)* mental health units and *(e)* other secure units on the latest date for which figures are available. [266457]

Mr. Hanson: At the end of January 2009, the latest date for which figures are available, there were 2,634 juveniles aged under 18 in custody in England and Wales. Of these, 2,222 were in YOIs, 228 in STCs and 184 in SCHs.

These figures are taken from the brief published at the following website which is updated monthly:

http://www.justice.gov.uk/publications/populationincustody.htm

These figures have been drawn from administrative IT systems, which, as with any large scale recording system, are subject to possible errors with data entry and processing.

Published information is not available to exactly answer part *(d)* of this question.

The annual Statistical Bulletin on Mentally Disordered Offenders shows that as of 31 December 2007 (the latest data for which published figures are available), there were 111 restricted patients (101 male and 10 female) aged 20 years and under detained within mental health units in England and Wales.

Further information can be found within table 4 of "Statistics of Mentally Disordered Offenders 2007: England and Wales", which can be downloaded from:

http://www.justice.gov.uk/docs/mentally-disordered-offenders-2007.pdf

DEFENCE

Afghanistan: Peacekeeping Operations

Ann Winterton: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether proposals have been made to his Department for the lease of medium and heavy lift helicopters for use in Afghanistan. [264144]

Mr. Hutton: The Ministry of Defence uses helicopters provided by SkyLink Aviation through the NATO ISAF Contracted Air Transport (ICAT) contract to move freight. During periods of peak activity the UK supplements the NATO ICAT with a national contract providing medium and heavy helicopter lift.

Mr. Hollobone: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will make an assessment of the extent to which the Taliban are using body armour in combat with UK forces. [265710]

Mr. Hutton: It is not appropriate to comment on assessments made of enemy forces' capabilities for operational security reasons.

Dr. Murrison: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much has been spent on ammunitions for operations in Helmand province in each month since 2001; and if he will make a statement. [265970]

Mr. Hutton *[holding answer 24 March 2009]*: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave him on 19 January 2009, *Official Report*, column 1042W.

The costs of operations in Afghanistan in 2008-09 are expected to be available in July.

Armed Forces Day: Essex

Mr. Newmark: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether he plans to enable organisations based in Essex to participate in Armed Forces Day on 27 June 2009. [265680]

Mr. Kevan Jones: The MOD is keen to support organisations in Essex, as with those in all other parts of the country, planning to run armed forces day events. Support is made available in the form of a financial grant and with the participation of local service units where this can be arranged. Within Essex, we are aware that Southend-on-Sea borough council are planning to hold a major armed forces day event on 27 June and they have been awarded a financial grant from the MOD to assist with the costs. We have also invited all local authorities in the county to participate in a 'fly the flag' initiative, which involves holding a flag raising ceremony (ideally involving cadets and veterans) on 22 June at 10.30 to coincide with other similar events across the country. Braintree borough council, along with a number of other authorities in the county, have confirmed that they intend to participate in this activity.

Armed Forces: Brunei

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much his Department has spent on basing Gurkha soldiers in Brunei Darussalam in each year since 2005. [265145]

Mr. Kevan Jones: The cost of basing Gurkha soldiers in Brunei depends largely on how many soldiers based there are deployed on operations. In 2005 and 2007, the resident battalion deployed to Afghanistan as a unit.

Financial year	*MOD expenditure on basing Gurkhas in Brunei (£ million)*
2005-06	8
2006-07	2
2007-08	21

Figures for 2008-09 are not yet available.

Armed Forces: Career Development

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many *(a)* officers and *(b)* other ranks there are in each pay range at each level in the armed services. [264964]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The information requested is provided in the tables.

The numbers include all regular officers and other ranks on the main pay scales. Regular officers and other ranks who are on separate bespoke pay spines, e.g. chaplains, medical and dental officers, professional aviators, officers promoted from the ranks, as well as reservists are excluded.

The numbers shown against each level are as at January 2009. The pay rates shown are for 2008-09.

Other ranks are allocated to either the higher or lower pay spines in accordance with their trade.

Officers

Rank	*Officers pay spine*	*Number of personnel*	*Pay rate*
Chief of the Defence Staff	Level 4	0	235,968.84
	Level 3	1	231,342.48
	Level 2	0	226,805.76
	Level 1	0	222,358.68
Navy: Admiral	OF9 Level 6	2	170,790.96
Army: General	OF9 Level 5	4	167,439.96
RAF: Air Chief Marshal	OF9 Level 4	0	164,159.04
	OF9 Level 3	0	160,938.96
	OF9 Level 2	1	157,784.04
	OF9 Level 1	2	154,700.04
Navy: Vice Admiral	OF8 Level 6	0	143,722.56
R.M.: Lieutenant General	OF8 Level 5	0	139,156.56
Army: Lieutenant General	OF8 Level 4	1	134,588.52
RAF: Air Marshal	OF8 Level 3	4	130,022.52
	OF8 Level 2	13	122,799.60
	OF8 Level 1	7	115,576.56
Navy: Rear Admiral	OF7 Level 7	5	110,778.60
R.M.: Major General	OF7 Level 6	5	108,480.60
Army: Major General	OF7 Level 5	6	106,180.56
RAF: Air Vice Marshal	OF7 Level 4	3	103,880.52
	OF7 Level 3	22	101,580.60
	OF7 Level 2	22	99,654.60
	OF7 Level 1	25	98,198.52
Navy: Commodore	OF6 Level 5	94	96,287.76
R.M.: Brigadier	OF6 Level 4	43	95,343.12
Army: Brigadier	OF6 Level 3	54	94,410.24
RAF: Air Commodore	OF6 Level 2	75	93,473.40
	OF6 Level 1	68	92,536.56
Navy: Captain	OF5 Level 9	77	85,267.68
R.M.: Colonel	OF5 Level 8	38	84,300.00
Army: Colonel	OF5 Level 7	61	83,332.20
RAF: Group Captain	OF5 Level 6	83	82,368.24
	OF5 Level 5	129	81,404.40
	OF5 Level 4	134	80,440.44
	OF5 Level 3	153	79,476.60
	OF5 Level 2	170	78,508.80
	OF5 Level 1	195	77,544.84
Navy: Commander	OF4 Level 9	587	74,022.60
R.M.: Lieutenant Colonel	OF4 Level 8	205	73,065.00
Army: Lieutenant Colonel	OF4 Level 7	248	72,107.52
RAF: Wing Commander	OF4 Level 6	299	71,158.56
	OF4 Level 5	357	67,293.84
	OF4 Level 4	368	66,454.32
	OF4 Level 3	484	65,614.32
	OF4 Level 2	511	64,774.80
	OF4 Level 1	513	63,927.36

Officers

Rank	*Officers pay spine*	*Number of personnel*	*Pay rate*
Navy: Lieutenant Commander	OF3 Level 9	1,679	54,550.56
R.M.: Major	OF3 Level 8	520	53,421.72
Army: Major	OF3 Level 7	737	52,300.92
RAF: Squadron Leader	OF3 Level 6	1,340	51,176.16
	OF3 Level 5	986	50,043.72
	OF3 Level 4	879	48,922.68
	OF3 Level 3	822	47,790.12
	OF3 Level 2	758	46,673.40
	OF3 Level 1	746	45,548.64
Navy: Lieutenant	OF2 Level 9	928	43,002.24
R.M.: Captain	OF2 Level 8	435	42,514.20
Army: Captain	OF2 Level 7	601	42,018.12
RAF: Flight Lieutenant	OF2 Level 6	818	41,045.64
	OF2 Level 5	1,028	40,065.48
	OF2 Level 4	1,131	39,092.88
	OF2 Level 3	1,164	38,108.76
	OF2 Level 2	1,076	37,128.60
	OF2 Level 1	1,150	36,160.08
RN: Midshipman, Sub-Lieutenant	OF1 Level 10	151	31,188.36
RM: 2nd Lieutenant, Lieutenant	OF1 Level 9	55[illegible]	30,442.56
Army: 2nd Lieutenant, Lieutenant	OF1 Level 8	685	29,704.32
RAF: Acting Pilot Officer/ Pilot Officer, Flying Officer	OF1 Level 7	1,184	28,962.48
DNS: Tri-Service	OF1 Level 6	248	28,216.32
	OF1 Level 5	1,106	23,475.24
	OF1 Level 4	0	20,800.08
	OF1 Level 3	1	17,710.80
	OF1 Level 2	1	16,230.96
	OF1 Level 1	260	14,852.28

Other Ranks - Higher Pay Spine

Rank	*Other ranks pay spine (higher)*	*Number of personnel*	*Pay rate*
Navy: Warrant Officer 1	OR9 Range 5 Level 7	573	44,587.80
R.M.: Warrant Officer 1	OR9 Range 5 Level 6	220	43,916.04
Army: Warrant Officer 1	OR9 Range 5 Level 5	321	43,146.84
RAF: Warrant Officer	OR9 Range 5 Level 4	477	42,389.16
	OR9 Range 5 Level 3	290	41,623.68
	OR9 Range 5 Level 2	205	40,920.72
	OR9 Range 5 Level 1	104	40,131.60
Navy:			
Levels 1-9 - Chief Petty Officer (Non-Artificer)	OR7/8 Range 4 Level 9	1,841	41,248.80
Levels 1-7 - Chief Petty Officer (Artificer)	OR7/8 Range 4 Level 8	529	40,666.80
Levels 5-9 - Warrant Officer II	OR7/8 Range 4 Level 7	2,142	40,096.68
R.M.:	OR7/8 Range 4 Level 6	1,197	39,526.44
Levels 1-7 - Colour Sergeant	OR7/8 Range 4 Level 5	1,378	38,671.20
Levels 5-9 - Warrant Officer II	OR7/8 Range 4 Level 4	733	37,811.88
Army:	OR7/8 Range 4 Level 3	747	36,956.64
Levels 1-7 - Staff Sergeant	OR7/8 Range 4 Level 2	805	36,093.60
Levels 5-9 - Warrant Officer II	OR7/8 Range 4 Level 1	297	35,242.32
RAF:			
Levels 1-7 - Chief Technician			
Levels 5-9 - Flight Sergeant (List 1)			
Levels 1-9 - Flight Sergeant (List 2)			
Navy: Petty Officer	OR6 Range 3 Level 7	3,437	35,218.80
R.M.: Sergeant	OR6 Range 3 Level 6	1,694	34,570.44
Army: Sergeant	OR6 Range 3 Level 5	2,294	33,922.32
RAF: Sergeant	OR6 Range 3 Level 4	2,465	33,273.84
	OR6 Range 3 Level 3	2,811	32,660.08
	OR6 Range 3 Level 2	1,594	32,047.56
	OR6 Range 3 Level 1	1,036	31,239.24
Navy: Leading Rate	OR4 Range 2 Level 7	5,354	31,645.56
R.M.: Corporal	OR4 Range 2 Level 6	2,501	30,969.72
Army: Corporal	OR4 Range 2 Level 5	3,152	30,341.04
RAF: Corporal	OR4 Range 2 Level 4	3,182	29,626.20
	OR4 Range 2 Level 3	3,457	28,950.72
	OR4 Range 2 Level 2	2,119	27,599.28
	OR4 Range 2 Level 1	1,601	26,314.56
Navy:			
Levels 1-9 - Able Rate	OR2/3 Range 1 Level 9	5,526	27,599.28
R.M.:	OR2/3 Range 1 Level 8	2,934	26,314.56
Levels 1-9 - Marine	OR2/3 Range 1 Level 7	3,014	25,181.88
Levels 5-9 Lance Corporal (or RM passed JCC)	OR2/3 Range 1 Level 6	2,682	24,076.80
Army:	OR2/3 Range 1 Level 5	2,828	22,959.72
Levels 1-7 - Private	OR2/3 Range 1 Level 4	125	20,765.04
Levels 5-9 - Lance Corporal	OR2/3 Range 1 Level 3	160	19,312.20
RAF:	OR2/3 Range 1 Level 2	176	17,492.16
Level 1 Aircraftmen & Leading Aircraftmen	OR2/3 Range 1 Level 1	209	16,226.76
Levels 2-9 - Senior Aircraftmen			

Other Ranks – Lower Pay Spine

Rank	*Other ranks pay spine (lower)*	*Number of personnel*	*Pay rate*
Navy: Warrant Officer 1	OR9 Range 5 Level 7	409	42,076.68
R.M.: Warrant Officer 1	OR9 Range 5 Level 6	119	40,920.72
Army: Warrant Officer 1	OR9 Range 5 Level 5	106	39,803.64
RAF: Warrant Officer	OR9 Range 5 Level 4	180	39,042.12
	OR9 Range 5 Level 3	83	38,284.44
	OR9 Range 5 Level 2	30	37,526.88
	OR9 Range 5 Level 1	4	36,812.16
Navy:			
Levels 1-9 – Chief Petty Officer (Non-Artificer)	OR7/8 Range 4 Level 9	1,492	37,792.32
Levels 1-7 - Chief Petty Officer (Artificer)	OR7/8 Range 4 Level 8	462	36,956.64
Levels 5-9 – Warrant Officer II	OR7/8 Range 4 Level 7	2,122	36,483.96
R.M.:	OR7/8 Range 4 Level 6	1,471	35,933.52
Levels 1--7 – Co[illegible]r Sergeantt	OR7/8 Range 4 Level 5	900	34,379.16
Levels 5--9 – Warrant Officer III	OR7/8 Range 4 Level 4	747	33,918.36
Army:	OR7/8 Range 4 Level 3	436	33,141.12
Levels 1--7 – Staff Sergeantt	OR7/8 Range 4 Level 2	307	32,098.32
Levels 5--9 – Warrant Officer III	OR7/8 Range 4 Level 1	193	31,684.56
RAF:			
Levels 1--7 – Chief Technician			
Levels 5--9 – Flight Sergeantt (List 1)			
Levels 1--9 – Flight Sergeantt (List 2)			
Navy: Petty Officer	OR6 Range 3 Level 7	1,493	32,531.88
R.M.: Sergeant	OR6 Range 3 Level 6	729	32,285.76
Army: Sergeant	OR6 Range 3 Level 5	591	31,208.04
RAF: Sergeant	OR6 Range 3 Level 4	674	30,415.20
	OR6 Range 3 Level 3	666	30,110.52
	OR6 Range 3 Level 2	685	29,372.52
	OR6 Range 3 Level 1	335	28,622.64
Navy: Leading Rate	OR4 Range 2 Level 7	1,944	28,458.48
R.M.: Corporal	OR4 Range 2 Level 6	870	28,251.72
Army: Corporal	OR4 Range 2 Level 5	924	28,029.00
RAF: Corporal	OR4 Range 2 Level 4	1,052	27,810.24
	OR4 Range 2 Level 3	1,100	27,599.28
	OR4 Range 2 Level 2	1,041	26,314.56
	OR4 Range 2 Level 1	1,229	25,181.88
Navy:			
Levels 1-9 – Able Rate	OR2/3 Range 1 Level 9	3,429	23,108.16
R.M.:	OR2/3 Range 1 Level 8	1,988	22,299.72
Levels 1-9 – Marine	OR2/3 Range 1 Level 7	7,915	21,323.40
Levels 5-9 Lance Corporal (or RM passed JCC)	OR2/3 Range 1 Level 6	4,626	20,448.72
Army:	OR2/3 Range 1 Level 5	5,269	19,628.52
Levels 1-7 – Private	OR2/3 Range 1 Level 4	5,700	18,624.72
Levels 5-9 - Lance Corporal	OR2/3 Range 1 Level 3	5,880	17,125.20
RAF:	OR2/3 Range 1 Level 2	8,872	16,676.04
Level 1 Aircraftmen & Leading Aircraftmen	OR2/3 Range 1 Level 1	12,557	16,226.76
Levels 2-9 – Senior Aircraftmen			

Other Ranks under training

	Other ranks pay spine	*Number of personnel*	*Pay rate*
New Entrants	OR1	9,314	13,012.80

Armed Forces: Defence Equipment

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether service members *(a)* wounded and *(b)* killed on operations whilst wearing non-issued body armour are entitled to compensation. [265146]

Mr. Kevan Jones: All personnel deploying to Iraq and Afghanistan are issued with a complete set of Enhanced Combat Body Armour (ECBA) before departure. Improved Performance Body Armour (OSPREY) and Enhanced Personnel Protection Equipment (KESTREL) are provided in addition to ECBA to personnel whose roles require it. These have been designed to protect against specific threats faced by personnel undertaking certain roles.

Service personnel injured (or surviving dependants of those killed) on or after 6 April 2005 wholly or predominantly due to service are eligible for compensation under the Armed Forces Compensation Scheme. All decisions on entitlement are made on a case by case basis; this is equally true if a casualty were found to be wearing non-issued body armour.

Armed Forces: Food

Mr. Ancram: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what proportion of the food provided for armed forces personnel came from UK sources in 2007-08. [265122]

Mr. Quentin Davies: During the financial year 2007-08, MOD increased the overall percentage of UK indigenous food it provides to armed forces personnel from 43 per cent. to 59 per cent.

Armed Forces: Housing

Mr. Walter: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many properties at Blandford Camp were surveyed as part of the Service Family Accommodation Review commissioned by his Department; and into which housing category such properties fall. [266460]

Mr. Kevan Jones: The Service Family Accommodation (SFA) at Blandford was not included in the condition survey at this stage because there is a continuing project to upgrade all SFA at Blandford Garrison to Standard 1 for Condition. In 2007 the site was confirmed as a future tri-service base and work began to upgrade 138 family homes; the programme also includes the demolition and rebuilding of some 247 homes. The project will cost around £8.5 million. The aspiration is for all properties at Blandford to be at Standard 1 for Condition by 2015.

In addition to this 120 new en-suite single living accommodation bed spaces were finished in 2005.

Armed Forces: Mental Health Services

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) how much has been spent on the contracting of service mental health provision to the Priory Clinic in each year since 2003; [265137]

(2) how many service personnel at each rank were referred to the Priory Clinic as *(a)* inpatients and *(b)* outpatients in each year since 2005. [265138]

Mr. Kevan Jones: The data requested relating to in-patients, up until 26 January 2009, can be found in the following table:

	Number of patients treated	*Contract value (£ million)*
1 December 2003 to 31 March 2004	58	0.4
1 April 2004 to 31 March 2005	321	4.2
1 April 2005 to 31 March 2006	351	4.5
1 April 2006 to 31 March 2007	305	3.4
1 April 2007 to 31 March 2008	281	3.8
1 April 2008 to 26 January 2009	212	2.8

These figures take into account the cost of assessing patients as well as any treatment programmes provided; the individual care needs of each patient will vary depending on their particular medical circumstances.

The only specific out-patient referrals for which we contract is the provision of psychology treatment. This element of the contract commenced in 2006 and the total number of patients referred can be found in the following table:

	Number of patients treated
1 April 2006 to 31 March 2007	13
1 Apr 2007 to 31 March 2008	21
1 April 2008 to 26 January 2009	28

In both tables, individual patient ranks have not been included to ensure that clinical confidentiality is protected.

The contract with the Priory Group has been replaced with a new contract awarded to the South Staffordshire and Shropshire NHS Foundation Trust (SSSFT). SSSFT will lead a partnership of seven NHS trusts, using facilities at each of the trusts concerned to ensure coverage across the country. This continues the community-based approach we follow for our out-patients who are seen at our regional military mental health centres.

Armed Forces: Occupational Therapy

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many service personnel returning from conflict zones have received occupational therapy treatments for *(a)* physical and *(b)* mental trauma in the last five years. [263613]

Mr. Kevan Jones: Information on the types of treatment an individual receives is only held on their medical records and it would incur disproportionate cost to extract this information. However, any treatment received from the Defence Medical Rehabilitation Centre (DMRC) at Headley Court and, in some cases, a military Department for Community Mental Health (DCMH) will incorporate elements of occupational therapy tailored to the needs of the patient.

Information on the number of service personnel who have been medically evacuated from Operations Herrick or Telic and subsequently attended DMRC Headley Court for rehabilitative treatment is available and is shown in the following table. These figures cover the period from 8 October 2007, the earliest date from which validated data are available, to 3 March 2009.

	Herrick	*Telic*	*Total*
Number of personnel to have been medically evacuated.	972	519	1,491
Number of personnel to have then attended DMRC	155	45	305

Notes:
1. Information is extracted from the Defence Patient Tracking Application, this system is constantly updated and therefore all figures are provisional and subject to change.
2. Figures include personnel from Naval Service, Army, RAF and UK civilians.
3. Figures show the number of individual patients treated and not the number of treatments (a patient may be admitted on more than one occasion).
4. Figures exclude Special Forces.

For available data on service personnel requiring mental health care and their deployment history, I refer the hon. Member to my answer to the hon. Member for Woodspring (Dr. Fox) of 3 March 2009, *Official Report*, columns 1435-36W.

Armoured Fighting Vehicles

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what percentage of *(a)* Warrior, *(b)* CVR(T) and *(c)* Saxon vehicles have been fit for service in each year since 2005. [264958]

Mr. Quentin Davies: "Fit for service" has been interpreted as the MOD's "Fit for Purpose", which is a vehicle capable of being used for the purpose for which it is required:

Fit for purpose

Percentage

	Vehicle type		
	Warrior	*CVR(T)*	*Saxon*
2005	65	63	62
2006	64	64	74
2007	58	50	79
2008	74	58	97

AWE Burghfield: Nuclear Weapons

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the answer of 22 January 2009, *Official Report*, column 1668W, on AWE Burghfield: nuclear weapons, what internationally recognised standards and codes of practice are applicable. [265568]

Mr. Quentin Davies: A wide range of internationally recognised standards and codes of practice are pertinent to the proposed main process facility for the assembly and disassembly of nuclear warheads at AWE Burghfield. Those that are most relevant to the resilience to nuclear accidents are in the following table.

Document Reference Number	*Reference*
JSP 482	MoD Explosives Regulations
T/AST/ 003	NII Technical Assessment Guide - Safety Systems
T/AST/ 005	NII Technical Assessment Guide - Demonstration of ALARP
T/AST/ 007	NII Technical Assessment Guide - Severe Accident Analysis
T/AST/ 008	NII Technical Assessment Guide - Safety Categorisation and Equipment Qualification
T/AST/ 017	NII Technical Assessment Guide - Structural Integrity, Civil Engineering Aspects
T/AST/018	NII Technical Assessment Guide - Criticality Incident Detection Systems
T/AST/006	Deterministic Safety Analysis and use of Engineering Principles in Safety Assessment
TM5-1300	Structures to resist the effects of Accidental Explosions. US Departments of the Army, the Navy and the Air Force November 1990
UFC UFC 3-340-01	Protective Structures Automated Design System (PSADS) Design and Analysis of Hardened Structures To Conventional Weapons Effects U.S. Army Corps of Engineers June 2002
No reference number	Manufacture and Storage of Explosives Regulations 2005
No reference number	Baker, W et al Explosion Hazards and Evaluation 1983
No reference number	Kingery, C.N. Bulmarsh, G Airblast Parameters from Spherical Air Burst and Hemispherical Surface Burst US Army Armament Research and Development Centre 1984
No reference number	Hyde, D Con Wep - Conventional Weapons Effects. Department of the Army, Waterways Experimental Station, US Army Corps of Engineers 1986

Typical standards relating to facility integrity are in the following table.

Document Reference Number	*Reference*
ACI349-06	Code Requirements For Nuclear Safety Related Concrete Structures
ANSI/AISC341sl-05	Seismic Provisions for Structural Steel Buildings
ANSI/AISC 358-05	Prequalified Connections for Special and Intermediate Moment Frames in Seismic Applications
ANSI/AISC 360 05	Specification for Structural Steel Buildings
ASCE 43-05	Seismic Design Criteria for Structures, Systems and Components in Nuclear Facilities
ASCE 4-98	Seismic analysis of safety related nuclear structures
ATC40	Applied Technology Council Seismic Evaluation and Retrofit of Concrete Buildings
AWSD1.8/ D1.8M:2005	Structural Welding Code - Seismic Supplement
BS 2573; Part 1	Rules for the Design of cranes - Specification for classification, stress calculations and design criteria for structures; 1983..
BS 2573; Part 2	Rules for the Design of cranes - Specification for classification, stress calculations and design of mechanisms; 1983.
BS 2573-1	Rules for the Design of Cranes - Part 1: Specification for Classification, Stress Calculations and Design Criteria for Structures
BS 2573-2	Rules for the Design of Cranes - Part 2: Specification for Classification, Stress Calculations and Design of Mechanisms
BS 4094	Data on Shielding from Ionising Radiation
BS 4449:2005	Steel for the reinforcement of concrete - Weldable reinforcing steel - Bar, coiled and decoiled product.
BS 5628	Code of Practice for use of masonry
BS 5760	Reliability of systems, equipment and components
BS 5950-1:2000	Structural use of steelwork in buildings. Code of Practice for design - Rolled and welded sections.
BS 6[illegible]	Ergonomic principles in the design of work systems
BS 6399	Loading for buildings
BS 8110-1:1997	Structural Use of Concrete. Part 1 Code of Practice for design and construction.
BS EN 13001-1	Crane Safety -General Design
BS EN 13001-2	Crane Safety-General Design
BS EN 13463-1	Non-electrical equipment for potentially explosive atmospheres
BS EN 292-1	Safety of Machinery- Basic concepts, general principals for design
BS EN 349	Safety of machinery: Minimum gaps to avoid crushing parts of the human body
BS EN 614	Safety of machinery: Ergonomic design principles
BS EN 62305	Lightning Regulations
BS EN ISO 11604	Ergonomic Design of Control Centres
BS EN 1011-2: 2001	Welding Recommendations for welding of metallic materials Arc welding of ferritic steels
BS EN 287-1: 2004	Qualification test of welders Fusion welding. Steels

Document Reference Number	*Reference*
BS EN 875: 1995	Destructive tests on welds in metallic materials. Impact tests Test specimen location, notch orientation and examination
BS EN ISO 15609-1	Specification and qualification of welding procedures for metallic materials. Welding procedure specification Arc welding
BS EN ISO 15614-1	Specification and qualification of welding procedures for metallic materials - Welding procedure test - Part 1 Arc and gas welding of steels and arc welding of nickel and nickel alloys
Def Stan 00-25	Human factors for designers of equipment
Def Stan 00-40	Reliability and Maintainability (R and M)
Def Stan 00-41	Reliability and Maintainability MOD Guide to Practices and Procedures
DEF STAN 08-5	Structural requirements for weapon support equipment; Issue 1 Chapter 5
FEMA 440	Improvement of non-linear static seismic analysis procedures (2005)
HSEACOPL138	Health and Safety Executive - Approved Code of Practice and Guidance - Dangerous Substances and Explosive Atmospheres
IAEA Tecdoc 1333	Earthquake experience and seismic qualification by indirect methods in nuclear installations
IAEA-TECDOC-1347	IAEA Report: Consideration of external events in the design of nuclear facilities other than nuclear power plants, with emphasis on earthquakes, dated March 2003
IEEE 344:1987	Recommended practice for seismic qualification of Class IE equipment for nuclear power generating stations
IRPCG	Changerooms Design Operation and Maintenance a Nuclear Industry Code of Practice
JSP 440	Defence Manual for Security
JSP 467	The specification of power driven lifting appliances used for handling conventional and nuclear armaments
JSP 482	Explosives regulations
JSP 538	Issue 2. Regulation of the Nuclear Weapon Programme - Nuclear Weapon Safety Principles and Safety Criteria and Safety Principles and Guidelines for Nuclear Weapon Systems
Kincade, R.G. Anderson J. - Electrical Power Institute	Human Factors Guide for Nuclear Power Plant Control Room Development. Other standards
Mil Std 1472D	Department of Defence: Human engineering requirements for military systems, equipment and facilities
Mil Std 1472F	Department of Defence: Design Criteria Standard - Human engineering
MoD/DE Functional Standard Design and Maintenance Guide 02	'Glazing standards for MoD buildings subject to terrorist threat'
NF0121/1	Ergonomics: Guidelines for the design of operator interfaces. British Nuclear Fuels plc
SI 1988 No. 1657	The Control of Substances Hazardous to Health Regulations (COSHH)
SI 1998 No. 2307	The lifting operations and lifting equipment regulations (LOLER)
SI 1999 No. 3232	Ionising Radiation Regulations (IRRs)
STGP10 (Sea Technology Group, MoD)	"HFI Management Guide"
No reference number	Flood Estimation Handbook, Institute of Hydrology, Wallingford, UK, 1999
No reference number	Flood Studies Report, Institute of Hydrology, HR Wallingford, UK, 1975
No reference number	The Crown Fire Standards 1997
No reference number	Lifting Operation and Lifting Equipment Regulations
No reference number	SQUG, Generic Implementation Procedure GIP for Seismic Verification of Nuclear Plant Equipment - Revision 3 A, December 2001

Ballistic Missile Defence

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the Government's policy is on a ballistic missile defence shield in Europe to provide security against Iran; and if he will make a statement. [264961]

Mr. Hutton: The Government see ballistic missile defence as an important defensive capability which could contribute to the defence of the UK and our NATO Allies against potential future ballistic missile threats.

Defence: International Co-operation

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what progress has been made since the Anglo-French summit of 27 March 2008 on the aspects of defence co-operation that were agreed there; and if he will make a statement. [264962]

Mr. Hutton: The UK and France have made good progress on all aspects of defence co-operation that were agreed during the 2008 summit.

The Declaration of Intent for the European Carrier Group Interoperability Initiative (ECGII) has so far been signed by nine European nations, building on the Summit commitment to Carrier Group Operations. The inaugural Steering Group met in Paris on 18 March. This is a high level declaration of intent aiming to increase interoperability between countries operating aircraft carriers or with naval vessels able to support carrier operations. There is no intention to create a standing carrier group.

The UK-France helicopter Initiative that was launched at the summit continues to gather momentum. The Helicopter Fund opened by the UK to support projects aimed at delivering helicopter capability to operational theatres now stands at €26 million with contributions from 15 nations. Other nations have offered to host multi-national helicopter exercises to prepare crews for deployment, to provide training courses, to donate surplus helicopters and even to supply pilots for other nations to use on operations. More importantly, the first nation to benefit from the initiative, the Czech Republic, deploys three helicopters to Afghanistan this year. Since the summit three other nations have also made a commitment to deploy helicopters and projects launched through the Helicopter Initiative will make a substantial and essential contribution to their theatre-entry equipment upgrades and crew training requirements. All this effort is very closely co-ordinated with NATO and EDA programmes to address the same problem.

Both nations continue to discuss NATO transformation with one another and the work fo strengthen EU/NATO co-operation is continuing. The anticipated return of France to the military structures of NATO has given a new impetus to these discussions.

Ministers and officials have met and continue to meet on numerous occasions to drive forward bilateral industrial defence co-operation. Progress has been made in all the areas highlighted in the 2008 Communiqué and we continue to seek new opportunities to develop our co-operation. The High Level Working Group will be providing a report on progress to the 2009 Anglo-French summit that is due to take place later this year.

Specifically we have made good progress with Complex Weapons. We have been working to assess the scope to co-operate on a range of projects including the potential to enter into Assessment Phases to examine enhancements for Storm Shadow and the French SCALP programme and to develop an anti-surface guided weapon for use on naval helicopters.

The UK and France have been working closely since the last summit to explore the opportunities for a common approach to A400M support. This work is continuing.

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what recent discussions he has had with his US counterpart on *(a)* European defence cooperation and *(b)* the Anglo-French defence partnership; and if he will make a statement. [264968]

Mr. Hutton: I have regular discussions with my US counterpart on a variety of defence issues, including a broad range of issues related to NATO and European Security and Defence Policy.

Departmental Electricity Generation

Simon Hughes: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what *(a)* capital and *(b)* maintenance expenditure his Department has incurred on standby diesel generators for back-up electricity supply of his Department's estate in each year since March 1997. [266409]

Mr. Kevan Jones: The information requested is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental ICT

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence which ICT projects costing more than £1 million his Department has initiated and abandoned before completion in each year since 2003-04; what costs were incurred in each project; who the main contractor for each project was; on what date each *(a)* commenced and *(b)* was abandoned; and if he will make a statement. [265512]

Mr. Quentin Davies: The information requested is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

EU Battlegroups

Dr. Murrison: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the expected cost of the Government's contribution to the EU Battlegroup roster will be in 2010. [265963]

Mr. Hutton: The UK commitment to the EU Battlegroup roster for January to July 2010 will be met by forces from the Small Scale Contingency Battlegroup element of the Joint Rapid Reaction Force (JRRF). As this is a national high readiness contingency which is already on stand-by during the relevant period, there is no additional cost to the UK of providing an EU Battlegroup on stand-by. The Small Scale Contingency Battlegroup will consist of forces drawn from the longstanding UK-Netherlands Amphibious Landing Force. As with all NATO activities, the principle of funding for the UK-Netherlands Amphibious Landing Force is that costs lie where they fall; each nation therefore pays its own costs.

There would be additional costs to the UK were the Battlegroup to deploy. However, an EU Battlegroup is a stand-by commitment intended for emerging contingencies and it is impossible to predict at the current time whether or not it will be deployed during its stand-by period. The cost to the UK of deploying an EU Battlegroup would depend on the nature and length of any deployment.

Gurkhas: Retirement

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what proportion of Gurkhas retired from the armed forces to *(a)* the UK, *(b)* Nepal and *(c)* other locations in each year since 1997. [265147]

Mr. Kevan Jones: Before 1 April 2007 all Gurkhas were discharged and retired in Nepal. From 1 April 2007 all Gurkhas have had the right to retire in the UK or Nepal and all have chosen to retire in the UK. Records are not held on where Gurkhas choose to live following their retirement from the Army, but it is estimated that some 6,000 ex-Gurkhas have settled in the UK under Home Office immigration rules introduced in 2004 and of these it is estimated that some 2,200 have retired since 1997.

Iraq: Peacekeeping Operations

Harry Cohen: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence with reference to the answer to the hon. Member for Woodspring (Dr. Fox) of 26 November 2008, *Official Report*, columns 1552-3W, on Iraq: peacekeeping operations, how much was paid to Harlow Specialist Life Support and Logistics for photocopier hire for use on Operation Herrick. [253339]

Mr. Quentin Davies: No payment has been made to Harlow Specialist Life Support and Logistics for photocopier hire for use on Operation Herrick.

The four-year contract with Harlow Specialist Life Support and Logistics for the hire of two photocopiers for use on Operation Telic has a total contract value of approximately £50,000.

Mr. Ancram: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many UK military personnel he expects to be deployed in Iraq after August 2009. [265121]

Mr. Hutton: I refer the right hon. and learned Member to the answer I gave him on 2 February 2009, *Official Report*, column 875W.

Joint Working Groups

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the answer of 27 February 2009, *Official Report*, column 1150W, on nuclear weapons, how much was spent on the visits in each year; and how much was paid for by the Government in each year. [265114]

Mr. Hutton: Information on the precise costs is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost. However, I am able to provide the average cost of UK attendance at the Joint Working Group meetings held in the US between 2001 and 2008; costs range from an average of £4,800 per meeting in 2001 to an average of £6,000 per meeting in 2008. All these costs are either directly or indirectly incurred by the UK Government.

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) how the costs of co-operation with the United States on nuclear weapons technology are shared under the co-operation terms of the 1958 Mutual Defence Agreement; [265115]

(2) what the *(a)* total combined costs and *(b)* costs to the Government of co-operation with the United States on nuclear weapons technology have been in each of the last 30 years under the 1958 Mutual Defence Agreement. [265116]

Mr. Hutton: Co-operation on experiments and trials conducted under the auspices of the 1958 Mutual Defence Agreement, are generally undertaken on a "costs lie where they fall" basis. There are some exceptions to this, such as material and equipment procured to support national requirements or under bartering arrangements. The UK has also contributed to the funding of collaborative trials in the US which support the UK's strategic weapon programme.

Additionally, having judged it cost-effective to do so, MOD has recently entered into a collaborative arrangement which requires the UK to contribute financially to activities at the US National Ignition Facility (NIF) that support the UK programme. This extends the previously announced investment at the NIF to $64 million.

Neither the total combined costs, nor costs to the UK of our collaboration with the United States under the Mutual Defence Agreement are readily available and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Military Aircraft: Helicopters

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what percentage of helicopters by type in the forward fleet were fit for purpose in each year since 2001. [264956]

Mr. Quentin Davies: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave on 3 March 2009, *Official Report*, column 1441W, to the hon. Member for Woodspring (Dr. Fox).

Nuclear Submarines

Angus Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence when the Interim Storage of Laid-Up Submarines Group will commence its programme of dismantling the UK's defuelled nuclear powered submarines. [265166]

Mr. Quentin Davies: No decisions on the dismantling programme will be made until completion of a Strategic Environmental Assessment and public consultation. It is the intention to make an announcement regarding the programme in 2010.

Angus Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) when the strategic capacity for storing nuclear submarines in Rosyth Dockyard will be reached; [265167]

(2) when the strategic capacity for storing nuclear submarines in Devonport Royal Dockyard will be reached. [265168]

Mr. Quentin Davies: Any submarines leaving service with the Royal Navy are planned to remain at Devonport Royal Dockyard until there has been a decision on the dismantling solution.

Similarly, it is not intended to move any of the currently laid-up submarines until there is a decision on the dismantling solution.

Based on these plans, UK afloat storage capacity is forecast to run out before 2020.

Angus Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether new facilities for defuelling and de-equipping submarines at Devonport Royal Dockyard will be completed by 2012. [265169]

Mr. Quentin Davies: Facilities for defuelling and de-equipping submarines at Devonport Royal Dockyard continue to be planned for completion in 2012.

Angus Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what progress has been made in meeting the 2010 date for a storage solution for the nuclear waste from the seven UK nuclear vessels at Rosyth Dockyard. [265170]

Mr. Quentin Davies: We intend to make an announcement in 2010 regarding the proposed locations for submarine dismantling and the interim storage of the resultant nuclear waste. This is dependent on a number of factors, particularly the completion of a strategic environmental assessment later this year, and the intention to carry out further public consultation before any decisions are made. Good progress is being made towards this goal.

Angus Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what other locations have been proposed as alternative storage sites for decommissioned nuclear submarines at Rosyth Dockyard. [265171]

Mr. Quentin Davies: No sites other than Devonport Royal Dockyard and Rosyth Dockyard are being considered as storage sites for laid-up submarines before they are dismantled.

We do not currently intend to move any of the laid-up submarines before a submarine dismantling site has been proposed. We plan to announce the proposed site in 2010.

Angus Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will estimate the cost of moving the seven decommissioned UK nuclear submarines at Rosyth Dockyard to another site in the UK. [265172]

Mr. Quentin Davies: We do not intend to move any defuelled submarines until the completion of the strategic environmental assessment, public consultation and departmental approval of the dismantling solution.

Cost forecasts for any proposed movement would be developed as part of the preparation of the project's Main Gate Business Case, which is planned to be completed in 2014.

Angus Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence when the next UK nuclear submarine is due to be taken out of service; and whether it will be berthed at Rosyth Dockyard. [265173]

Mr. Quentin Davies: The next UK submarine due to be taken out of service is HMS Trafalgar, scheduled for later this year. We currently intend to store HMS Trafalgar at Devonport Royal Dockyard until she has been defuelled. Its subsequent storage location will depend on the dismantling programme that is being developed.

Angus Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether all decommissioned submarines in Rosyth and Devonport Dockyards have been surveyed for possible holes. [265174]

Mr. Quentin Davies: I refer the hon. Member to the answer my right hon. Friend the Minister for Armed Forces gave on 13 June 2008, *Official Report*, column 560W.

Angus Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what assessment he has made of the effects on the environment of moving the seven decommissioned British nuclear powered submarines from the Rosyth Dockyard. [265194]

Mr. Quentin Davies: No decisions have been yet been made about when or how submarines will be moved.

The existing Interim Storage of Laid-Up Submarines (ISOLUS) Project Environmental Impact Assessment includes consideration of transportation matters. It is our intention to make this document available publicly in the near future.

More detailed assessments of the environmental impact of any planned movement of the submarines will be developed as required by relevant legislation.

Angus Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what was discussed at the seventh meeting of the Interim Storage of Laid-Up Submarines Group on Wednesday 11 March 2009; and if he will make a statement. [265195]

Mr. Quentin Davies: The Interim Storage of Laid-Up Submarines (ISOLUS) Advisory Group is an independently chaired group that provides independent assessment of proposals and outcomes. It also acts in a scrutiny and advisory role to the Ministry of Defence ISOLUS Steering Group.

The meetings are open to the public to observe and notes of meetings are published on the ISOLUS website

www.isolus.org.uk

A wide range of ISOLUS-related matters were discussed at the meeting on 11 March 2009. Notes from the meeting will be published on the ISOLUS website in April 2009 in line with normal practices.

Angus Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) how many decommissioned UK nuclear-powered submarines with nuclear fuel in their reactors are at Devonport Royal Dockyard; [265499]

(2) where the UK nuclear-powered submarines located at Devonport Royal Dockyard will be housed after they have been defuelled. [265500]

Mr. Quentin Davies: There are four decommissioned UK nuclear powered submarines that have fuel in their reactors at Devonport Royal Dockyard.

The plan is that they will remain there until a decision on the dismantling solution has been made.

It is the intention to make an announcement about the dismantling solution in 2010.

Angus Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence when a decision will be made on the movement of decommissioned British nuclear powered submarines from Rosyth Dockyard. [265501]

Mr. Quentin Davies: The movement of submarines will depend on the dismantling programme that is being developed by the Interim Storage of Laid-Up Submarines (ISOLUS) Project. This will be confirmed when the project receives Main Gate approval, which is scheduled for 2014.

Angus Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether the collision with Le Triomphant resulted in damage to the torpedo tube hatches on HMS Vanguard; and whether torpedoes were unloaded from HMS Vanguard before it was docked in the Faslane shiplift on 20 February 2009. [265947]

Mr. Hutton: I am withholding information about any damage that may have been sustained by HMS Vanguard as a result of the collision with FS Le Triomphant on the grounds of national security. I can confirm that the nuclear safety and security of HMS Vanguard was not compromised. It is standard procedure to off-load torpedoes from an SSBN before it enters the Faslane Shiplift facility.

Angus Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence when HMS Vanguard will return to full operational capacity. [267071]

Mr. Hutton: I am withholding information about the operational capacity of HMS Vanguard on the grounds of national security. I can confirm that the requirements of the deterrent patrol cycle will continue to be met.

RAF St. Athan

Mr. Walter: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence by what date he expects the Defence College of Communications and Information Systems to have completed its transfer from Blandford Camp to St. Athan. [266459]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The current estimate is for the Defence College of Communications and Information Systems to be fully operational at St. Athan by May 2015. This date remains subject to final approval of the main investment decision of the DTR Package 1 Project, subsequent contract agreement and confirmation of the transition planning arrangements.

Reserve Forces

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what percentage of the Volunteer Reserve has been committed to operations in each year since 1997, broken down by service. [257684]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: Information on Volunteer Reservists committed to operations is not held centrally in individual level databases, and therefore it is not possible to calculate the percentage of Volunteer Reservists committed to operations in each year without incurring disproportionate cost.

The forthcoming Reserves Review will make reference to "over 21,000 Volunteer Reserves" mobilised since 2003. However, data on Volunteer Reserves mobilisations are not held centrally in individual level databases and therefore it is not possible to split this approximate total by service, or to calculate the exact number of mobilisations within any year.

Aggregated snapshot: data of the number of mobilised Volunteer Reservists are available and therefore it is possible to calculate the percentage of Volunteer Reservists mobilised at given points in time. The following tables show the number and percentage of Volunteer Reservists mobilised at 1 April in each year for which data are available, for each service:

Royal Naval Reserve and Royal Marine Reserve mobilisations at 1 April each year

	Strength	*Of which: mobilised*	*Percentage mobilised*
1997	4,260	[1]—	[1]—
1998	4,440	[1]—	[1]—
1999	4,520	[1]—	[1]—
2000	4,820	[1]—	[1]—
2001	4,830	[1]—	[1]—
2002	4,980	[1]—	[1]—
2003	4,910	370	7.5
2004	4,480	60	1.3
2005	4,360	20	0.5
2006	[2]—	[2]—	[2]—
2007	3,680	80	2.2
2008	3,990	180	5.0

[1] Zero or rounded to zero

[2] Not available

Territorial Army mobilisations at 1 April each year

	Strength	*Of which mobilised*	*Percentage mobilised*
2004	38,320	2,890	7.5
2005	37,260	1,460	3.9
2006	38,460	1,110	2.9
2007[1]	36,790	1,020	2.8
2008[2]	[3]35,020	[3]1,360	[3]3.9

[1] 2007 Territorial Army data are as at 1 March

[2] 2008 Territorial Army data are as at 1 June

[3] Provisional

Figures for actual strength of TA personnel prior to 2004 are not held centrally.

Royal Auxiliary Air Force mobilisations at 1 April each year

	Strength	*Of which mobilised*	*Percentage mobilised*
1997	2,020	[1]—	[1]—
1998	2,490	[1]—	[1]—
1999	2,620	20	0.8
2000	2,740	40	1.5
2001	2,570	20	0.8
2002	2,590	80	3.1
2003	2,580	840	32.6
2004	2,580	20	0.8
2005	2,450	30	1.2
2006	2,300	90	3.9
2007	[2]2,160	[2]200	[2]9.3
2008	[2]2,200	[2]100	[2]4.5

[1] Not available

[2] Provisional

Warships

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many orders were placed for new *(a)* Royal Navy and *(b)* Royal Fleet Auxiliary vessels in each year since 1979. [265140]

Mr. Quentin Davies: Order dates (when build contracts were let) are provided in the following table for the Queen Elizabeth Class carriers, the Astute Class submarines and the Type 45 destroyers. As there is no requirement to keep contractual information for Royal Navy and Royal Auxiliary vessels beyond seven years, order dates for all other vessels built since 1979 are no longer held. The table does, however, include details of when building work commenced on these other vessels as this is the next significant milestone following the order date.

	Vessel		
	Royal Navy (incl. submarines and surface ships)	*Royal Fleet Auxiliary*	*Total*
1979	HMS Trafalgar (Trafalgar Class Submarine) HMS Gloucester (Type 42 Destroyer) HMS Boxer (Type 22 Frigate) HMS Cattistock (Mine Countermeasures Vessel) HMS Brocklesbury (Mine Countermeasures Vessel) HMS Cottesmore (Mine Countermeasures Vessel) HMS Dulverton (Mine Countermeasures Vessel) HMS Chiddingfold (Mine Countermeasures Vessel)		16

	Vessel		
	Royal Navy (incl. submarines and surface ships)	*Royal Fleet Auxiliary*	*Total*
	HMS Middleton (Mine Countermeasures Vessel)		
	HMS Hurworth (Mine Countermeasures Vessel)		
	HMS Bicester (Mine Countermeasures Vessel)		
	HMS Atherstone (Mine Countermeasures Vessel)		
	HMS Berkeley (Mine Countermeasures Vessel)		
	HMS Quorn (Mine Countermeasures Vessel)		
	HMS Ledbury (Mine Countermeasures Vessel)		
	HMS Alderney (Offshore Patrol Vessel)		
1980	HMS Turbulent (Trafalgar Class Submarine)		4
	HMS Edinburgh (Type 42 Destroyer)		
	HMS York (Type 42 Destroyer)		
	HMS Beaver (Type 22 Frigate)		
1981	HMS Tireless (Trafalgar Class Submarine)	Bayleaf (Auxiliary Oiler)	5
	HMS Brave (Type 22 Frigate)	Diligence (Forward Repair Ship)	
	HMS Leeds Castle (Offshore Patrol Vessel)		
1982	HMS Torbay (Trafalgar Class Submarine)		3
	HMS London (Type 22 Frigate)		
	HMS Dumbarton Castle (Offshore Patrol Vessel)		
1983	HMS Cornwall (Type 22 Frigate)		3
	HMS Sheffield (Type 22 Frigate)		
	HMS Gleaner (Survey Vessel)		
1984	HMS Coventry (Type 22 Frigate)		2
	HMS Cumberland (Type 22 Frigate)		
1985	HMS Trenchant (Trafalgar Class Submarine)	Sir Galahad (Landing Ship Logistic)	7
	HMS Campbeltown (Type 22 Frigate)		
	HMS Norfolk (Type 23 Frigate)		
	HMS Sandown (Mine Countermeasures Vessel)		
	HMS Archer (Inshore Training Vessel)		
	HMS Example (Inshore Training Vessel)		
1986	HMS Talent (Trafalgar Class Submarine)	Oakleaf (Auxiliary Oiler)	7
	HMS Vanguard (Vanguard Class Submarine)		
	HMS Chatham (Type 22 Frigate)		
	HMS Roebuck (Survey Vessel)		
	HMS Biter (Inshore Training Vessel)		
	HMS Smiter (Inshore Training Vessel)		
1987	HMS Triumph (Trafalgar Class Submarine)		7
	HMS Victorious (Vanguard Class Submarine)		
	HMS Argyll (Type 23 Frigate)		
	HMS Inverness (Mine Countermeasures Vessel)		
	HMS Cromer (Mine Countermeasures Vessel)		
	HMS Walney (Mine Countermeasures Vessel)		
	HMS Bridport (Mine Countermeasures Vessel)		
1988	HMS Lancaster (Type 23 Frigate)	Fort Victoria (Auxiliary Oiler Replenishment)	14
	HMS Blazer (Inshore Training Vessel)	Argus (Aviation Training and Primary Casualty Reception Ship)	
	HMS Puncher (Inshore Training Vessel)		
	HMS Charger (Inshore Training Vessel)		
	HMS Ranger (Inshore Training Vessel)		
	HMS Trumpeter (Inshore Training Vessel)		
	HMS Express (Inshore Training Vessel)		
	HMS Exploit (Inshore Training Vessel)		
	HMS Tracker (Inshore Training Vessel)		
	HMS Raider (Inshore Training Vessel)		
	HMS Dasher (Inshore Traiging Vessel)		
	HMS Pursuer (Inshore Training Vessel)		
1989	HMS Iron Duke(Type 23 Frigate)	Fort George (Auxiliary Oiler Replenishment)	4
	HMS Marlborough (Type 23 Frigate)		
	HMS Monmouth (Type 23 Frigate)		
1990	HMS Montrose (Type 23 Frigate)		3
	HMS Westminster (Type 23 Frigate)		
	HMS Northumberland (Type 23 Frigate)		
1991	HMS Vigilant (Vanguard Class Submarine)		3
	HMS Richmond (Type 23 Frigate)		

	Vessel		
	Royal Navy (incl. submarines and surface ships)	*Royal Fleet Auxiliary*	*Total*
	HMS Endurance (Antarctic Patrol Ship)		
1992	HMS Somerset (Type 23 Frigate) HMS Grafton (Type 23 Frigate)		2
1993	HMS Vengeance (Vanguard Class Submarine) HMS Sabre (Inshore Training Vessel) HMS Scimitar (Inshore Training Vessel)		3
1994	HMS Sutherland (Type 23 Frigate) HMS Ocean (Landing Platform Helicopter) HMS Bangor (Mine Countermeasures Vessel) HMS Blyth (Mine Countermeasures Vessel) HMS Grimsby (Mine Countermeasures Vessel) HMS Pembroke (Mine Countermeasures Vessel) HMS Penzance (Mine Countermeasures Vessel) HMS Ramsey (Mine Countermeasures Vessel) HMS Shoreham (Mine Countermeasures Vessel)		9
1995	—		0
1996	HMS Kent (Type 23 Frigate) HMS Scott (Survey Vessel)		2
1997	HMS Astute (Astute Class Submarine)—order date HMS Ambush (Astute Class Submarine)—order date HMS Artful (Astute Class Submarine)—order date		3
1998	HMS Portland (Type 23 Frigate) HMS St. Albans (Type 23 Frigate) HMS Albion (Landing Platform Dock)		3
1999	—		0
2000	HMS Daring (Type 45 Destroyer)—order date HMS Dauntless (Type 45 Destroyer)—order date HMS Diamond (Type 45 Destroyer)—order date HMS Bulwark (Landing Platform Dock)	Wave Knight (Auxiliary Oiler)	5
2001	HMS Tyne (Offshore Patrol Vessel)	Largs Bay (Landing Ship Dock (Auxiliary)) Wave Ruler (Auxiliary Oiler)	3
2002	HMS Dragon (Type 45 Destroyer)—order date HMS Defender (Type 45 Destroyer)—order date HMS Duncan (Type 45 Destroyer)—order date HMS Severn (Offshore Patrol Vessel) HMS Mersey (Offshore Patrol Vessel) HMS Echo (Survey Vessel) HMS Enterprise (Survey Vessel)	Lyme Bay (Landing Ship Dock (Auxiliary)) Mounts Bay (Landing Ship Dock (Auxiliary)) Cardigan Bay (Landing Ship Dock (Auxiliary))	10
2003	—		0
2004	—		0
2005	—		0
2006	—		0
2007	HMS Audacious (Astute Class Submarine)—order date		1
2008	HMS Queen Elizabeth (Future carrier)—order date HMS Prince of Wales (Future carrier)—order date		2

WORK AND PENSIONS

Children: Maintenance

Derek Twigg: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people who have made overpayments to the Child Support Agency are waiting for a refund; and how many have been waiting for a refund for longer than *(a)* one month, *(b)* three months, *(c)* six months and *(d)* one year. [263628]

Kitty Ussher: I have consulted with the Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission who are now responsible for the child maintenance system including the Child Support Agency. They have confirmed that the information requested is not available.

Community Care Grants

Andrew Selous: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what percentage of applications for community care grants were rejected in the most recent period in each of the smallest geographic areas for which figures are available. [264589]

Kitty Ussher *[holding answer 19 March 2009]:* The information is provided in the following table.

Jobcentre Plus Social Fund budget area (ordered by region)	*Percentage of community care grant applications initially refused from 1 April 2008 to 28 February 2009*
East of England	
Essex	56
Norwich Benefit Delivery Centre	61
East Midlands	
East Midlands North	56
South East Midlands	58
London	
Central and East London	56
London South	53
North and North East London	58
West London	57
North East	
Northumbria	52
South Tyne and Wear Valley	62
Tees Valley	59
North West	
Chorlton Benefit Delivery Centre	62
Greater Liverpool and Cheshire	53
Scotland	
Inverness Benefit Delivery Centre	60
Springburn Benefit Delivery Centre	54
South East	
Berkshire, Oxfordshire, Buckinghamshire and Surrey	50
Hampshire, Isle of Wight, Kent and Sussex	47
South West	
South West Central	55
Wales	
Llanelli Benefit Delivery Centre	50
South East Wales	51
West Midlands	
West Midlands Social Fund	59
Yorkshire and Humberside	
Bradford	58
Sheffield	57

Note:

Percentages are based on applications processed from 1 April 2008 to 28 February 2009, not on applications received during that time period.

Source:

DWP Social Fund Policy, Budget and Management Information System.

Council Tax Benefits

Julia Goldsworthy: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will estimate the revenue forgone by the Exchequer by increasing personal allowances for the purposes of calculating council tax benefits by *(a)* 10, *(b)* 20, *(c)* 30, *(d)* 40 and *(e)* 50 per cent.; and if he will estimate the effect of each level of increase on the number of claimants of council tax benefit. [264427]

Kitty Ussher *[holding answer 18 March 2009]*: The information is in the following table.

Estimates of the cost and number of council tax beneficiaries if personal allowances are increased

Increase in personal allowance (percentage)	*Number of beneficiaries*	*Cost in annually managed expenditure (£ million per year)*
10	1,130,000	20
20	1,150,000	30
30	1,170,000	50
40	1,180,000	60
50	1,200,000	80

Notes:

1. All figures are for Great Britain.
2. Beneficiaries are rounded to the nearest 10,000 and costs are rounded to the nearest £10 million. These include both customers who gain and those who become entitled to the benefit.
3. Each beneficiary represents a benefit unit, which can be a single claimant or a couple.
4. The impact is estimated using the Department's Policy Simulation Model for 2008-09, using data from the 2006-07 Family Resources Survey up-rated to 2008-09 prices, benefit rates and earnings levels, and is calibrated to latest published forecasts and policies.
5. Results are subject to sampling and reporting errors and estimation assumptions, and are therefore indicative only. No behavioural changes are assumed.

Julia Goldsworthy: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the effect on the public purse would be of raising the applicable amounts at which households begin to start paying council tax to *(a)* £116 per week for a (i) single person aged under 25, (ii) single person aged over 25 and (iii) couple of working age, *(b)* £174 per week for a single person aged between 65 and 74 years old and *(c)* £177 per week for a single person aged 75 years and over. [264762]

Kitty Ussher *[holding answer 19 March 2009]*: The information is in the following table.

The table shows estimates of the cost and number of council tax benefit (CTB) beneficiaries and the saving and number of losers if the following changes are made to applicable amounts in CTB:

Option 1: Applicable amount for single people under 25 set to £116

Option 2: Applicable amount for single people over 25[1] set to £116

Option 3: Applicable amount for working age couples[2] set to £116

Option 4: Applicable amount for single people between 65 and 74 set to £174

Option 5: Applicable amount for single people 75 and over set to £177

[1] This change has not been applied to elderly cases i.e. only applied to those aged under 60.

[2] This has only been applied to cases where both are aged under 60.

Change applicable amounts in council tax benefit for some groups

Change in applicable amount	*Number of beneficiaries*	*Cost in annually managed expenditure (£ million p.a.)*	*Number of losers*	*Saving in annually managed expenditure (£ million p.a.)*	*Impact on annually managed expenditure (£ million p.a.)*
Option 1	60,000	20	0	0	20
Option 2	260,000	60	160,000	-50	10
Option 3	40,000	10	170,000	-70	-60
Option 4	150,000	30	10,000	0	30
Option 5	200,000	40	30,000	-10	40

Notes:

1. All figures are for Great Britain.

2. Beneficiaries and losers are rounded to the nearest 10,000. Costs and savings are rounded to the nearest £10 million. These estimates include both customers who gain/lose and those who become entitled or lose entitlement to the benefit.

3. Each beneficiary represents a benefit unit, which can be a single claimant or a couple.

4. The impact is estimated using the Department's Policy Simulation Model for 2008-09, using data from the 2006-07 Family Resources Survey uprated to 2008-09 prices, benefit rates and earnings levels, and is calibrated to latest published forecasts and policies.

5. Results are subject to sampling and reporting errors and estimation assumptions, and are therefore indicative only. No behavioural changes are assumed.

Departmental Manpower

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many full-time equivalent staff in his Department worked primarily or solely on the Social Fund in each of the last 10 years. [263077]

Mr. McNulty *[holding answer 12 March 2009]*: The administration of Jobcentre Plus is a matter for the acting Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus, Mel Groves. I have asked him to provide the hon. Member with the information requested.

Letter from Mel Groves:

The Secretary of State for Work and Pensions has asked me to reply to your question asking how many full-time equivalent staff in the Department worked primarily or solely on the Social Fund in each of the last 10 years. This is something which falls within the responsibilities delegated to me as Acting Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus.

The tables attached at Annex 1 provide the average number of staff working on Social Fund from April 2008 to September 2008, the mid point of the 2008/09 operational year for each Benefit Delivery Centre and Contact Centre.

The table below shows the approximate numbers working on social fund in each year since 2003/4. No data are available prior to 2003/04.

	Staff (FTEs)
2003-04	3,400
2004-05	3,200
2005-06	3,200
2006-07	3,300
2007-08	3,600

Historically it is difficult to make a robust estimate of the number of staff working on Social Fund alone. Although Social Fund activity was recorded on our Activity Based Modelling System, we know that for many of these staff Social Fund was only part of their work. Following centralisation of benefit processing, which began in April 2006 and was completed in March 2008, we can be more confident that our data represent people working full time on Social Fund.

Annex 1: Social Fund processing locations and average staff numbers between April 2008 and September 2008

Benefit delivery centre	*Average staff numbers (FTEs)*
Balham and Ilford	382
Basildon	66
Belle Vale	227
Bradford	62
Bristol	153
Chesterfield	73
Chorlton	221
Inverness	121
Llanelli	59
Milton Keynes	178
Newcastle	67
Newport	123
Norwich	99
Nottingham	78
Perry Barr	252
Sheffield	174
Springburn	276
Stockton	73
Sunderland	89
Total	2,773

Source:
Jobcentre Plus ABM systems

Contact centre locations	*Average staff numbers (FTEs)*
Annesley	85
Middlesbrough	165
Lowestoft	95
Caerphilly	73
Dundee	117
Taunton	90
Halifax	115
Marton Mere	40
Lincoln	25
Pembroke Dock	40
Total	845

Source:
Contact Centre Directorate

Mr. Ancram: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what recent assessment he has made of the likely effects of changes in levels of unemployment on staffing levels in *(a)* his Department and *(b)* Jobcentre Plus. [265296]

Mr. McNulty: The Department and its agencies keep headcount plans under continuous review. Jobcentre Plus is increasing its staffing levels to deal with changes in the level of unemployment and announced an increase of 6,000 staff for 2009-10 on the 25 November 2008 to maintain the delivery of help and support for people who have lost their jobs. The Department will provide further details of its headcount plans, including those in Jobcentre Plus, in its revised three year plan which will be published after the Budget.

Disability Living Allowance: Age

Steve Webb: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) if he will estimate the cost to the Exchequer of removing the rule that prevents people from making an initial claim for disability living allowance over the age of 65 for all new claims from people over this age, in each of the next six years; [257088]

(2) if he will estimate the cost to the Exchequer of increasing the age at which people can claim disability living allowance for the first time to *(a)* 70, *(b)* 75 and *(c)* 80 years old; and if he will make a statement; [257089]

(3) if he will estimate the cost to the Exchequer of paying disability living allowance in place of attendance allowance to all pensioners currently receiving attendance allowance in each of the next six years. [257199]

Jonathan Shaw: The information is not available. Entitlement to disability living allowance can only be established when a claim is made and the actual care or mobility needs of the individual are assessed.

There are no reliable data available on which estimates could be made of abolishing or extending the upper age limit up to which disability living allowance can be claimed.

Economic and Monetary Union

Mr. Maude: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions with reference to the Answer of 14 July 2008, *Official Report*, column 132W, on economic and monetary union, whether his Department's updating of its euro changeover plan has been completed; and if he will place in the Library the latest version of the plan. [250047]

Jonathan Shaw: The plan is a high-level technical document summarising the main activities and time scales for work on DWP IT systems that would need to be set in hand if an announcement were to be made that the UK were joining the euro. It would not be appropriate or informative to place this in the Library.

Housing Benefit

Willie Rennie: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) how many people in each constituency have received local housing allowance in each of the last three years; [265353]

(2) how much housing benefit has been dispensed to people in each constituency by local authorities under *(a)* local reference rents and *(b)* local housing allowance in each of the last four years; [265354]

(3) how much of the housing benefit dispensed to people in each constituency by local authorities under *(a)* local reference rents and *(b)* local housing allowance in each of the last four years was for housing in the private rented sector. [265355]

Kitty Ussher *[holding answer 20 March 2009]*: Housing Benefit information is not currently available at constituency level.

Willie Rennie: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate his Department has made of *(a)* the number of applications for local housing allowance and *(b)* the estimated Government expenditure on local housing allowance in (i) 2009, (ii) 2010 and (iii) 2011. [265356]

Kitty Ussher *[holding answer 20 March 2009]*: The Department has not estimated the total number of applications to housing benefit assessed according to local housing allowance rules in each year.

The Department estimates expenditure for local housing allowance by financial year rather than calendar year. Estimates of expenditure are provided in the table.

	£ billion *Estimated cost of local housing allowance*
2009-10	2.6
2010-11	3.7
2011-12	4.4

As the local housing allowance is being rolled out initially to new claims and those who move address, expenditure increases as more of the private rented sector caseload moves on to local housing allowance each year.

It is important to note that these estimates are subject to a number of assumptions and estimates are sensitive to small changes in these assumptions.

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many housing benefit recipients there have been in each region in each year since 1997. [265388]

Kitty Ussher: The information is in the following table.

Number of housing benefit recipients in each region 1997 to 2007

Date	*Great Britain*	*North East*	*North West*	*Yorkshire and the Humber*	*East Midlands*	*West Midlands*
August 1997	4,591,920	278,120	450,810	589,610	276,340	411,620
August 1998	4,425,210	269,290	431,880	575,400	266,840	398,590
August 1999	4,243,410	204,120	451,100	518,630	257,770	383,950
August 2000	3,968,250	250,070	537,220	357,190	241,160	363,950
August 2001	3,867,480	240,870	518,340	348,970	237,460	355,310
August 2002	3,798,760	236,290	512,380	341,650	223,870	349,110
August 2003	3,813,560	234,660	505,660	343,410	229,290	351,720
August 2004	3,943,590	230,850	522,260	346,450	237,950	352,870

Number of housing benefit recipients in each region 1997 to 2007

Date	*Great Britain*	*North East*	*North West*	*Yorkshire and the Humber*	*East Midlands*	*West Midlands*
August 2005	3,981,020	229,240	516,760	347,050	239,570	355,480
August 2006	4,024,280	228,350	516,070	345,790	244,910	366,760
August 2007	4,040,940	227,440	518,560	349,450	244,850	369,570

Date	*East*	*London*	*South East*	*South West*	*Wales*	*Scotland*
August 1997	323,130	744,720	440,810	311,930	232,810	532,030
August 1998	311,250	705,020	422,500	301,270	228,050	515,120
August 1999	295,460	655,840	401,860	290,050	219,810	504,830
August 2000	275,530	598,220	382,910	272,930	209,870	479,200
August 2001	270,780	594,180	369,660	267,300	207,000	457,620
August 2002	267,870	599,200	362,300	257,230	200,670	448,180
August 2003	271,430	615,100	365,510	260,870	197,530	438,390
August 2004	282,110	661,020	388,170	270,250	200,830	450,850
August 2005	289,220	686,160	399,390	277,430	200,240	440,480
August 2006	297,060	689,680	412,680	288,850	201,940	432,210
August 2007	302,140	698,340	416,410	286,210	200,690	427,260

Notes:

1. The data refer to benefit units, which may be a single person or a couple.
2. The figures have been rounded to the nearest 10.
3. Figures for any non-responding authorities have been estimated.
4. Housing benefit figures exclude any extended payment cases.
5. From February 2007, DWP has been collecting more detailed housing benefit/council tax benefit data electronically from local authorities. Over time this will improve the accuracy, timeliness and level of detail available in the published statistics. However, until the new data have been fully quality assured to National Statistics standards, the most recent summary statistics available are for August 2007.

Source:

Housing Benefit and Council Tax Benefit Management Information System Quarterly 100 per cent caseload stock-count taken in August 1997 to August 2007.

Housing Benefit: Internet

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much his Department spent on its housing benefit website in each of the last three years. [266282]

Kitty Ussher: The Department provides web pages about the administration of housing benefit for local authority staff on its corporate website

www.dwp.gov.uk/housingbenefit

There are no separately quantifiable ongoing running costs for this section of the website.

Maintenance of DWP websites is mostly carried out by the Department's own in-house digital media team. It is not possible for us to quantify internal staff costs, because in most cases, staff are engaged in more than one role. In addition, we are unable to establish accurately our infrastructure costs because they form part of a wider departmental IT contract.

This section of the website was redeveloped in 2008 to make it easier for local authority staff to use. A contractor was employed specifically to undertake this work at a cost of £25,200.

DWP is currently working with the COI to develop a standardised method for quantifying website costs across Government. We will be implementing this standard from March 2009 in line with the current timetable.

Income Support: Mortgages

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) what estimate he has made of the number of people who are receiving support for mortgage interest payments at a level below the standard rate of 6.08 per cent. and the rates at which such people are receiving payment; [254588]

(2) when he expects that the IT system faults affecting the level at which support for mortgage interest payments are received to be rectified; and when he expects all recipients to receive the correct level of payment; [254612]

(3) when his Department received reports that faults in its IT systems had caused errors in payments of support for mortgage interest; when he was informed of the faults; and what steps his Department has taken to rectify the errors; [254617]

(4) what estimate he has made of the average weekly underpayment of Support for Mortgage Interest for those not being paid at the standard interest rate of 6.08 per cent. as a result of the recent IT systems' failures in his Department; [255521]

(5) what plans he has to ensure that customers receiving underpayments of Support for Mortgage Interest *(a)* do not fall into arrears, *(b)* do not receive a poor credit rating and *(c)* are not put at risk of repossession as a result of IT systems' failure in his Department. [255524]

Kitty Ussher: I refer the hon. Member to the written answer I gave the hon. Member for Northavon (Steve Webb) on 4 March 2009, *Official Report*, column 1614W.

When the Chancellor's decision was made to help our customers by keeping the support for mortgage interest rate at 6.08 per cent. we had already reprogrammed the IT which governs the assessment and payment of DWP benefits to implement the 1.5 per cent. reduction in the base rate announced by the Bank of England on

6 November. This was not a failure, but part of normal processing which could not be reversed without significant risk of disrupting the normal running of our IT systems, most critically the uprating of benefits—affecting many more cases than just those getting Support for Mortgage Interest. The solution we adopted was designed to, reduce the risk of disruption while ensuring customers were received the extra money as speedy as possible.

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions whether all the people receiving Support for Mortgage Interest payments at a level below the standard interest rate of 6.08 per cent. as a result of IT systems' failures in his Department have been informed of the problem. [255520]

Kitty Ussher: The amount of Support for Mortgage Interest is calculated by applying a Standard Interest Rate (SIR) to the capital outstanding on the mortgage SIR was based on the Bank of England base rate plus an additional 1.58 per cent. However, the Government were concerned that significant cuts in the base rate would disadvantage customers on benefit if they were reflected in the calculation of Support for Mortgage Interest, but not in the interest rates on their mortgages.

Given these exceptional circumstances, the Chancellor announced on 24 November 2008 in the pre-Budget report that the SIR should remain at 6.08 per cent. for six months to help our customers.

When the Chancellor's decision was made, we had already re-programmed the IT which governs the assessment and payment of DWP benefits to implement the 1.5 per cent. reduction in the base rate announced by the Bank of England on 6 November 2008. This was not a failure, but part of normal processing which could not be reversed without significant risk of disrupting the normal running of our IT systems, most critically the uprating of benefits—affecting many more cases than just those getting support for mortgage interest. The solution we adopted was designed to reduce the risk of disruption whilst ensuring customers received their full entitlement.

Customers who were receiving support for mortgage interest will have received notifications generated by our IT system that their interest payments decreased from 14 December 2008. By now they should have received further notifications telling them about the increase in their benefit to reflect our decision to keep the interest rate higher than it would otherwise have been for six months.

Guidance has been issued to the Pension, Disability and Carers Service and Jobcentre Plus staff, to help them identify and correct benefit claims with housing costs that have been affected by the reduction. Telephony staff were fully briefed to deal with queries from members of the public, and to concentrate efforts on readjusting the effected cases.

Mortgage lenders, via the Council of Mortgage Lenders, have also been advised about the situation to ensure that lenders are aware of exactly what is happening.

Detailed guidance has been issued to local authorities so that action is taken to protect council tax benefit claims.

Jobcentre Plus

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the most recent Jobcentre Plus workload forecasts updated on 31 January are for the volume of claims for *(a)* jobseeker's allowance, *(b)* income support, *(c)* incapacity benefit or employment and support allowance and *(d)* Social Fund loans for each quarter up to 2015, broken down by (i) region, (ii) local authority, (iii) constituency and (iv) Jobcentre Plus district; what the total costs are expected to be; and if he will make a statement. [261024]

Mr. McNulty: The information requested is not available.

Jobcentre Plus: Lerwick

Mr. Carmichael: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many job vacancies were advertised in the Lerwick job centre in each month of 2008; and for what average length of time each job was advertised in that year. [260291]

Mr. McNulty: The information is in the following table, and provides separate data for unfilled and notified vacancies to give the fullest picture of the number of Jobcentre Plus vacancies in any particular constituency. The labour market is dynamic and many new vacancies are filled so quickly they do not appear in the statistics for live unfilled vacancies, which are based on a snapshot of the vacancies available on a particular day.

The coverage of these figures relates only to Jobcentre Plus notified and unfilled vacancies. Many vacancies come up through other recruitment channels and the proportion accounted for by Jobcentre Plus is likely to vary over time, according to the occupation of the vacancy and industry of the employer, and by local area. Estimates of the number of unfilled job vacancies across the economy as a whole are available from the monthly ONS Vacancy Survey, based on a sample of some 6,000 enterprises. However, the ONS survey is currently designed to provide national estimates only.

In addition, it should be noted that parliamentary constituencies are often a poor match to the area covered by the local labour market. The number and range of jobs available to people within normal travel to work distances often extends well beyond immediate constituency boundaries.

Job vacancies advertised in Lerwick Jobcentre Plus offices in 2008

	Live unfilled vacancies	*Notified vacancies*	*Median duration (days between notification and closure)*
January 2008	39	35	42.0
February 2008	52	90	42.0
March 2008	59	66	37.9
April 2008	28	48	28.0
May 2008	22	59	37.8
June 2008	109	186	36.4
July 2008	124	78	39.5
August 2008	110	108	46.0
September 2008	60	79	51.6
October 2008	75	116	34.4
November 2008	58	105	37.2
December 2008	41	65	33.4

Notes:
1. Data are unrounded.
2. Changes to Jobcentre Plus vacancy handling procedures have led to a major discontinuity in the vacancy statistics pre and post May 2006. Consequently, care should be taken in interpreting time-series data.
3. Notified vacancies. Monthly data on the inflow of newly notified vacancies to Jobcentre Plus.
4. The median duration (in days) is calculated by ranking all the vacancies in order of ascending duration and taking the middle value. Half the vacancies will have a duration greater than the median, and half will have a duration less than the median. For most purposes, the median will give a more representative measure of the average duration; a mean figure tends to be distorted by a small number of vacancies that have very long durations.
5. These figures are published at
www.nomisweb.co.uk
Source:
Jobcentre Plus Labour Market System

Jobcentre Plus: Manpower

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many of the 6,000 additional Jobcentre Plus staff announced on 25 November 2008 had been recruited by the latest date for which figures are available; and by what date he expects all of those staff to have been recruited. [262843]

Mr. McNulty *[holding answer 11 March 2009]:* The administration of Jobcentre Plus is a matter for the Acting Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus, Mel Groves. I have asked him to provide the hon. Member with the information requested.

Letter from Mel Groves:

The Secretary of State has asked me to reply to your question, asking how many of the 6,000 additional Jobcentre Plus staff announced on 25 November 2008 had been recruited on the latest date for which figures are available; and by what date he expects all of those staff to have been recruited. This is something which falls within the responsibilities delegated to me as Acting Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus.

Recruitment to deal with increased work load has already started and by the end of March 2009 we will have around 4,000 more staff than in our original Spending Review plans. The funding of an additional 6,000 Jobcentre Plus staff announced in the Pre Budget Report was specifically for 2009-10 onwards. We will be running major national recruitment campaigns for Personal Advisers and Interventions staff from 13 March 2009.

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many staff were employed in Jobcentre Plus in each year since its establishment. [262844]

Mr. McNulty *[holding answer 11 March 2009]:* The administration of Jobcentre Plus is a matter for the Acting Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus, Mel Groves. I have asked him to provide the hon. Member with the information requested.

Letter from Mel Groves:

The Secretary of State has asked me to reply to your question asking how many staff were employed in Jobcentre Plus in each year since its establishment. This is something that falls within the responsibilities delegated to me as Acting Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus.

We are unable to provide information prior to April 2003.

The table below provides the number of full-time equivalents employed each year since April 2003 and up to January 2009.

Staff employed by Jobcentre Plus since April 2003

	Full time equivalent staff
April 2003	82,904
March 2004	80,097
March 2005	74,475
March 2006	71,221
March 2007	67,946
March 2008	66,416
January 2009	67,941

Note:
Headcount figures are quoted in full-time equivalents using the Office for National Statistics criteria for counting headcount.
Sources:
1. Jobcentre Plus Management Information Portal. Information not available prior to April 2003 due to data capacity reasons.
2. Data for March 2008 and January 2009 is provided from "Dataview", an electronic extract from the DWP Resource Management system.

Jobcentre Plus: Training

Mr. Lancaster: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what assessment he has made of the adequacy of training a Jobcentre Plus financial assessor receives before starting work. [259054]

Mr. McNulty: The administration of Jobcentre Plus is a matter for the Acting Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus, Mel Groves. I have asked the Acting Chief Executive to provide the hon. Member with the information requested.

Letter from Mel Groves:

The Secretary of State has asked me to reply to your question asking what assessment he has made of the adequacy of training a Jobcentre Plus financial assessor receives before starting work. This is something that falls within the responsibilities delegated to me as Acting Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus.

The adequacy of all Jobcentre Plus training products, including those for financial assessors is monitored closely during all stages of development (including rigorous quality assurance stages) by colleagues from policy branch and subject matter experts who are fully involved in every stage of the development lifecycle.

Additionally, the products are regularly discussed by our Senior Operational Managers at national, regional and district levels to ensure that the quality of the learning we provide is maintained.

Jobseeker's Allowance

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many appeals there have been against sanctions issued for non-compliance with the jobseeker's allowance regime in each of the last five years for which figures are available. [261065]

Mr. McNulty: Fixed-length sanctions are issued for non-compliance with the jobseeker's allowance interventions regime. The information is in the following table.

Financial year	Fixed-length sanctions imposed	Appeals received
2003-04	31,720	370
2004-05	28,960	360
2005-06	29,650	380
2006-07	39,180	500
2007-08	47,000	670

Note:
All figures are rounded to the nearest 10. Some additional disclosure control is applied.
Source:
DWP Information Directorate: Jobseeker's Allowance Sanctions and Disallowance Decisions Statistics Database.

Ms Keeble: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many *(a)* men and *(b)* women were in receipt of (i) contribution-based and (ii) income-based jobseeker's allowance in each of the last 12 months for which figures are available. [262426]

Mr. McNulty: The available information is in the following table; the data are collected quarterly and not month by month.

Male and female recipients of jobseeker's allowance August 2007 to August 2008, Great Britain

	Males			Females		
Date	*Contribution Based Only*	*Contribution and Income Based*	*Income Based Only*	*Contribution Based Only*	*Contribution and Income Based*	*Income Based Only*
August 2007	76,900	10,100	431,100	37,100	1,100	160,400
February 2008	95,000	11,100	437,700	37,800	1,300	154,400
May 2008	90,600	11,600	427,600	37,200	1,200	149,700
August 2008	105,600	13,100	453,500	45,700	1,700	169,300

Notes:

1. Figures have been uprated using 5 per cent. proportions against 100 per cent. WPLS totals.
2. Figures are rounded to the nearest 100.
3. Figures for November 2007 are not available due to JSA data for that quarter not being received by IFD.
4. Data are published at www.nomisweb.co.uk.

Source:

DWP Information Directorate work and pensions longitudinal study (WPLS) Information Directorate, 5 per cent. samples.

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what percentage of jobseeker's allowance claimants had been claiming the benefit for over 12 months in each of the last 10 years for which figures are available. [262845]

Mr. McNulty *[holding answer 11 March 2009]*: The information is in the following table.

Proportion of jobseeker's allowance claimants who had been claiming for over 12 months as at January in each year 2000 to 2009

January	*Claimants (percentage)*
2000	22.0
2001	19.4
2002	16.3
2003	14.5
2004	14.8
2005	14.4
2006	13.9
2007	16.5
2008	14.0
2009	8.4

Notes:

1. Percentages are rounded to one decimal place.
2. Claimant count data are published at https://www.nomisweb.co.uk.
3. Figures exclude clerical cases.

Source:

100 per cent. count of claimants of unemployment-related benefits, Jobcentre Plus Computer Systems (computer held cases only).

Mr. Bone: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many jobseeker's allowance claimants there were in *(a)* the UK and *(b)* Wellingborough constituency on the latest date for which figures are available. [263438]

Mr. McNulty: In January 2009, there were 1,282,645 people claiming jobseeker's allowance in the UK and 2,710 in Wellingborough constituency. These numbers are based on seasonally unadjusted figures.

Notes:

1. Data are rounded to the nearest five.
2. Data are published at https://www.nomisweb.co.uk.
3. This is the seasonally unadjusted figure for the UK and has been used for comparison purposes as seasonally adjusted figures are not available for parliamentary constituencies. The headline change reported for the UK is 351,500

Source:

100 per cent. count of claimants of unemployment-related benefits, Jobcentre Plus Computer Systems (excludes clerical cases).

Jobseeker's Allowance: Bexley

Mr. Evennett: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people resident in each ward in the London Borough of Bexley claimed jobseeker's allowance in each of the last 12 months. [262211]

Mr. McNulty: The information is in the following table.

	2008											2009
Ward	*Feb*	*Mar*	*April*	*May*	*June*	*July*	*Aug*	*Sept*	*Oct*	*Nov*	*Dec*	*Jan*
Barnehurst	75	90	90	75	80	95	100	120	130	125	140	155
Belvedere	145	155	160	165	150	155	165	190	190	190	210	220
Blackfen and Lamorbey	60	70	65	60	65	60	80	90	100	110	120	155
Blendon and Penhill	55	45	60	60	60	50	50	60	65	75	90	120
Brampton	55	55	55	55	60	60	65	70	75	85	100	110
Christchurch	105	90	95	105	85	90	90	105	105	115	125	145
Colyers	185	195	190	180	185	190	205	220	210	210	230	240
Cray Meadows	90	85	85	90	95	110	130	145	145	150	175	190
Crayford	120	130	120	110	105	115	135	160	175	180	195	220
Danson Park	65	75	75	90	105	100	110	135	125	145	160	185
East Wickham	90	80	85	80	95	90	105	125	120	135	165	190
Erith	175	175	195	195	190	180	190	200	185	195	230	260

	2008											2009
Ward	*Feb*	*Mar*	*April*	*May*	*June*	*July*	*Aug*	*Sept*	*Oct*	*Nov*	*Dec*	*Jan*
Falconwood and Welling	80	65	75	80	70	75	75	85	100	100	110	135
Lesnes Abbey	130	135	140	150	145	135	150	170	175	200	225	230
Longlands	55	50	50	45	50	50	60	65	75	80	90	105
North End	205	210	210	215	215	210	215	230	230	230	265	305
Northumberland Heath	100	95	100	95	100	90	110	110	105	115	125	140
Sidcup	70	70	75	70	65	65	75	80	85	80	90	100
St. Mary's	55	50	50	60	50	50	60	65	70	80	85	115
St. Michael's	85	90	95	95	95	95	90	105	125	125	145	170
Thamesmead East	240	235	235	230	235	235	240	260	270	290	315	345

Notes:
1. Data are rounded to the nearest 5.
2. Data are published at https://www.nomisweb.co.uk.
3. Figures exclude clerical cases.
Source:
100 per cent. count of claimants of unemployment-related benefits, Jobcentre Plus computer systems (computer held cases only).

Mr. Evennett: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what percentage of young people in *(a)* the London Borough of Bexley and *(b)* Bexleyheath and Crayford constituency claimed jobseeker's allowance in each year since 2005. [262212]

Mr. McNulty: The information for the London Borough of Bexley is in the following table.

	Percentage of young people age 18 to 24 in Bexley claiming Jobseeker's Allowance
January 2005	3.2
January 2006	3.7
January 2007	3.6
January 2008	2.6
January 2009	4.5

Notes:
1. Number of claimants rounded to nearest five. Percentages are rounded to one decimal place.
2. Data are published at https://www.nomisweb.co.uk.
3. Figures exclude clerical cases.
4. Population estimates are taken from the ONS mid year population statistics for the relevant year except the years 2008 and 2009 which are based on the 2007 estimate.
The information for Bexleyheath and Crayford Constituency is not available.
Source:
100 per cent. count of claimants of unemployment-related benefits, Jobcentre Plus computer systems (computer held cases only).

New Deal Schemes

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions in which areas he expects flexible new deal providers will start delivery in October 2009. [263075]

Mr. McNulty *[holding answer 12 March 2009]:* The Government remain committed to bringing in the flexible new deal phase 1 from October 2009. The Jobcentre Plus districts in which flexible new deal phase 1 will be implemented are listed as follows.

Flexible new deal phase 1

Birmingham and Solihull
North and East Yorkshire and Humber
Tees Valley
South Yorkshire
Derbyshire
Surrey and Sussex
Kent
Leicestershire and Northamptonshire
Nottinghamshire
Central London
Lambeth, Southwark and Wandsworth
Devon and Cornwall
South Wales Valleys
South East Wales
South West Wales
North and Mid Wales
Black Country
Greater Manchester Central
Greater Manchester East and West
Coventry and Warwickshire
The Marches
Staffordshire
Lanarkshire and East Dunbartonshire
Edinburgh, Lothian and Borders
Ayrshire, Dumfries, Galloway and Inverclyde
Cambridgeshire and Suffolk
Norfolk
Lincolnshire and Rutland

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the budget for the flexible new deal is in each of the 14 areas in phase one of the project. [263076]

Mr. McNulty [holding answer 12 March 2009]: The budgets included in the Invitation to Tender for flexible new deal phase 1 by region are in the table. Revised budgets and annual profiles are subject to on going commercial negotiation and review.

Annual indicative contract package total for the period October 2009 to September 2014

	£ million
Contract package/Jobcentre Plus districts	
Ayrshire, Dumfries, Galloway and Inverclyde/Edinburgh, Lothian and Borders/Lanarkshire and East Dunbartonshire	17.11
North East Yorkshire and the Humber/Tees Valley	20.99
Greater Manchester Central/ Greater Manchester East and West	10.52
Derbyshire / South Yorkshire	17.86
South East Wales / North and Mid Wales	8.59
Coventry and Warwickshire/The Marches /Staffordshire	17.18

Annual indicative contract package total for the period October 2009 to September 2014

	£ million
Leicestershire and Northamptonshire/ Nottinghamshire	10.32
Cambridgeshire and Suffolk/ Lincolnshire and Rutland/Norfolk	15.91
Birmingham and Solihull	22.02
Black Country	16.56
South West Wales/South Wales Valleys	9.39
London Central/Lambeth, Southwark and Wandsworth	26.78
Kent/Surrey and Sussex	20.37
Devon and Cornwall	6.19
Total	236.59

Poverty: Children

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate he has made of the number of children who were *(a)* in relative poverty and *(b)* in single parent households in each year since 1979; and if he will make a statement. [263460]

Kitty Ussher: The available information on the number of children living in relative low income since 1979 is given in the Households Below Average Income publication, published in June 2008, which is available in the Library.

Estimates of the number of dependent children in lone parent households or dependent children in lone parent families are readily available from different sources. Dependent children in lone parent families include children who may not be included in lone parent households, usually because they live in a multiple family household. Figures for England and Wales taken from the 2001 Census show that there were 2.4 million dependent children living in lone parent households, while there were 2.7 million dependent children living in lone parent families. Historic time series data are only readily available for children in lone parent families, not households.

Historic estimates of the number of dependent children living in lone parent families in Great Britain are available in past issues of *Population Trends*. The relevant issues are 109 (autumn 2002): "One parent families and the dependent children living in them in Great Britain" and 91 (spring 1998): "One parent families and their dependent children." These are collated in the following table.

Dependent children living in lone parent families in Great Britain

	Number of dependent children (million)
1971	1.0
1976	1.3
1981	1.5
1984	1.5
1986	1.6
1987	1.7
1988	1.8
1990	2.0
1991	2.2
1992	2.3
1993	2.4
1994	2.5
1995	2.6
1996	2.7

Source:
Best estimates using trends and combined survey sources (see Population Trends 91 and 109 - articles on lone parents for details of the methodology)

Estimates are not readily available for all years.

More recent estimates for the UK are available from the Labour Force Survey and shown in the following table for all years between 1997 and 2008.

Dependent children living in lone parent families in the UK

	Number of dependent children (million)
1997	2.7
1998	2.9
1999	2.9
2000	2.9
2001	2.9
2002	3.0
2003	3.0
2004	3.0
2005	3.0
2006	3.0
2007	3.0
2008	3.0

Source:
Labour Force Survey household data, April to June quarters, not seasonally adjusted.
Notes:

1. Given the different geography and different methods and sources used to prepare the estimates in these tables, they are not directly comparable.

2. All estimates are based on survey data and therefore subject to uncertainty.

3. Dependent children are children under 16, or those under 19 who are in full-time education. In addition, children cease to be dependent when they form their own family (ie they have children, marry or cohabit).

Social Fund

Mr. Evennett: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many Social Fund loans were not repaid in the last five years for which figures are available. [261425]

Kitty Ussher: The number of loans outstanding as at 31 March 2008 for loans awarded in each of the last five years is as follows:

Year of original award	*Number of loans outstanding*
2003-04	300,064
2004-05	309,201
2005-06	555,354
2006-07	1,290,484
2007-08	2,305,653

Standard repayment terms for Social Fund Loans are 104 weeks, and in exceptional circumstances this can be extended to 130 weeks. Accordingly loans issued in both 2006-07 and 2007-08 would not necessarily have reached term.

Overall around £8 billion in loans has been awarded since 1988 with only £38 million (0.5 per cent.) being written off to date and recoveries continue to be pursued for both on and off benefit customers.

Social Security Benefits: Arrears

Mr. Gale: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what recent assessment he has made of the effect on claimants of *(a)* income support, *(b)* incapacity benefit, *(c)* jobseeker's allowance, *(d)* severe disablement allowance and *(e)* widow's benefit of the introduction of fortnightly payments in arrears; what steps have been taken to publicise this change; and if he will make a statement. [illegible]

Mr. McNulty *[holding answer 23 February 2009]*: The changes are being introduced as they will simplify the process of paying the working age benefits listed above and will make it easier for customers to move between these benefits.

Customers receiving these benefits will not lose money when these changes come in as entitlement to benefit will be continuous. The change in pay periods may result in a perceived "gap" during the transition from weekly to fortnightly payments and customers who are unable to manage this gap will be able to apply for a repayable loan.

Jobcentre Plus has arranged a comprehensive communication campaign about the changes. Each customer will receive an initial letter or interview up to six months before they are moved to the new system. Further information will also be available from the Information Line advertised in the letter and on the Jobcentre Plus or Directgov websites. Four weeks before any changes are due to occur customers will also receive an individual detailed notification explaining exactly how and when the changes will be made and what help is available.

Social Security Benefits: Voluntary Work

Lynne Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what information his Department provides to claimants on their rights to undertake voluntary work and the effect of such work on their entitlement to *(a)* incapacity benefit and *(b)* jobseeker's allowance. [263600]

Mr. McNulty: Working-age people in receipt of all benefits may do unlimited voluntary work, provided they continue to meet the usual benefit entitlement conditions.

Jobcentre Plus provides information on the benefit conditions relating to volunteering in a range of ways including: through a comprehensive leaflet covering incapacity benefit, jobseeker's allowance and other benefits; through its internet web site which has links to advice on volunteering from other organisations; and through its network of local advisers based in Jobcentre Plus offices.

Vacancies: Chelmsford

Mr. Burns: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many job vacancies were notified to Jobcentre Plus branches in *(a)* West Chelmsford constituency and *(b)* the Chelmsford local authority area in each of the last 12 months. [261796]

Mr. McNulty *[holding answer 9 March 2009]*: The information is in the following table.

Vacancies notified to Jobcentre Plus in West Chelmsford constituency and Chelmsford local authority area

	Live unfilled vacancies		*Notified vacancies*	
Date	*West Chelmsford parliamentary constituency*	*Chelmsford local authority*	*West Chelmsford parliamentary constituency*	*Chelmsford local authority*
February 2008	1,050	1,124	1,231	1,345
March 2008	1,020	1,140	915	1,029
April 2008	851	956	842	930
May 2008	877	991	938	1,052
June 2008	860	1,045	1,010	1,195
July 2008	1,380	1,524	1,273	1,339
August 2008	1,014	1,087	1,121	1,246
September 2008	748	867	721	841
October 2008	954	1,090	1,009	1,092
November 2008	1,132	1,257	1,142	1,256
December 2008	752	808	477	522
January 2009	312	385	298	331

Notes:

1. Data are unrounded.
2. Changes to Jobcentre Plus vacancy handling procedures have led to a major discontinuity in the vacancy statistics pre and post May 2006. Consequently, care should be taken in interpreting time-series data.
3. These are not whole economy figures. Coverage relates just to vacancies notified to Jobcentre Plus and as such represent a market share of vacancies throughout the whole economy. This proportion varies over time, according to the occupation of the vacancy and industry of the employer, and by local area. Comprehensive estimates of all job vacancies (not just those notified to Jobcentre Plus) are available from the monthly ONS Vacancy Survey since April 2001, based on a sample of some 6,000 enterprises. However, the ONS survey is currently designed to provide national estimates only.
4. Notified vacancies. Monthly data on the inflow of newly notified vacancies to Jobcentre Plus.
5. The stocks of Live unfilled vacancies reflect more accurately job opportunities available via Jobcentre Plus. In the case of unfilled vacancies, use of the figures on live vacancies is recommended (i.e. excluding suspended vacancies), and this is the default option. Live vacancies may still include some vacancies which have already been filled or are otherwise no longer open.
6. To provide a geographic breakdown, in most cases the postcode of the vacancy is used to allocate the vacancy to a local area. Where this is missing or invalid, the employers' postcode or the postcode of the local Jobcentre Plus office is used.
7. These figures are published at
www.nomisweb.co.uk
8. Parliamentary constituencies and local authority areas are often a poor match for local labour markets. The number and range of jobs available to people within normal travel to work distances often extend well beyond immediate constituency and local authority boundaries.

Source:
Jobcentre Plus Labour Market System

Mr. Burns: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many job vacancies have been notified to the Chelmsford Jobcentre Plus in each of the last 12 months. [265403]

Mr. McNulty *[holding answer 20 March 2009]*: The information is in the following table.

Vacancies notified to Chelmsford Jobcentre Plus Office in the last 12 months

	Number
March 2008	1,593
April 2008	1,177
May 2008	1,305
June 2008	1,534
July 2008	1,559
August 2008	1,408
September 2008	984
October 2008	1,211
November 2008	1,369
December 2008	568
January 2009	358
February 2009	1,208

Notes:

1. Data are unrounded.

2. These are not whole economy figures. Coverage relates just to vacancies notified to Jobcentre Plus and as such represent a market share of vacancies throughout the whole economy. This proportion varies over time, according to the occupation of the vacancy and industry of the employer, and by local area. Comprehensive estimates of all job vacancies (not just those notified to Jobcentre Plus) are available from the monthly ONS Vacancy Survey since April 2001, based on a sample of some 6,000 enterprises. However, the ONS survey is currently designed to provide national estimates only.

3. Notified vacancies are the monthly data on the inflow of newly notified vacancies to Jobcentre Plus.

4. These figures are published at www.nomisweb.co.uk

Source:

Jobcentre Plus Labour Market System.

Vacancies: Wales

Mrs. Gillan: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many job vacancies advertised by each public sector employer there have been in each Jobcentre Plus district in Wales at each salary band in each week since 1 January 2009. [264425]

Mr. McNulty *[holding answer 18 March 2009]*: The information is not collated centrally.

Voluntary Work

Tony Baldry: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what restrictions to entitlement to jobseeker's allowance are applied to individuals who are volunteers. [262957]

Mr. McNulty: Working-age people in receipt of all benefits may do unlimited voluntary work, provided they continue to meet the usual benefit entitlement conditions. Jobseeker's allowance claimants must remain available for and actively seeking work, continue to attend mandatory interviews with their Jobcentre Plus adviser and take part in any mandatory work-focused activity. They are also requested to inform their personal adviser that they are volunteering.

Provided they fulfil these conditions, jobseeker's allowance claimants may do unlimited voluntary work and have no restrictions applied to their benefit entitlement as a result.

Unlike most jobseekers, who must be available for employment immediately, those undertaking voluntary work are allowed 48 hours notice to attend a job interview and one week's notice to take up employment. If they receive reimbursement for any expenses incurred while volunteering, this does not affect their benefit entitlement.

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Council Housing: Rents

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many local authorities are planning an increase in *(a)* average guideline rent and *(b)* actual average rent equal to or less than 3.1 per cent. in 2009-10. [266487]

Mr. Iain Wright: This information will not be available until local authorities' consultation responses have been received to a draft Amending 2009-10 Housing Revenue Account Subsidy Determination.

Consultation will be for four weeks commencing in the week beginning 23 March. We aim to publish the final Amending Determination in May.

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the *(a)* average guideline rent increase and *(b)* actual average rent increase will be in each local authority in 2009-10. [266488]

Mr. Iain Wright: Information on average guideline rent increases for each local housing authority, reflecting a national average increase of 6.2 per cent., is contained in the Housing Revenue Account (HRA) subsidy determination 2009-10 which is on the Department's website.

Information on average guideline rents for individual authorities based on a revised national average guideline increase of 3.1 per cent. will be issued for consultation this week as part of an Amending HRA subsidy determination for 2009-10.

Local authorities' actual average rent increases will not be available until after the end of consultation on the Amending Determination.

Council Housing: Standards

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what assessment she has made of the effect in the reduction of council house rent rises on the ability of local authorities to meet the decent homes standard. [265967]

Mr. Iain Wright: The reduction in guideline rents should have no impact on decent homes delivery, as any rent reductions in line with the proposal we have made will be covered by changes in local authority subsidy payments. The ability of a local authority to deliver decent homes is dependent on the level of capital repair and maintenance allowances and resources available, and the condition of its housing stock.

Council Tax

Mr. Hands: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the cumulative increase in band D council tax was for each local authority in England in the period from 2007 to 2010, ranked from lowest to highest. [265859]

John Healey: Details of the increase in band D council tax for each local authority in England in the period from 2007-08 and 2008-09 are available on the Communities and Local Government website at:

http://www.local.communities.gov.uk/finance/ctax/data/ctaxtimes.xls

Data for 2009-10 will not be available until after 26 March 2009.

Departmental Detergents

Annette Brooke: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if she will make it her policy to ensure that no cleaning products or ingredients of cleaning products used by her Department have been tested on animals. [261132]

Mr. Khan: Cleaning services for the Department's HQ building are provided under the integrated facilities management contract with MITIE. They have confirmed with their suppliers that none of the cleaning products used have been tested on animals.

Eco-towns

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) what estimate she has made of the costs of the improvements to the A391 in respect of the St. Austell eco-town development; [265273]

(2) what estimate she has made of the likely costs of the on-site utilities to be proposed for the eco-town at Pennbury; [265274]

(3) what estimate she has made of the cost of the rail strategy of the Ford Airfield eco-town proposal; [265276]

(4) what assessment she has made of each of the base case assumptions made in respect of each proposed eco-town development as part of her Department's financial viability study. [265286]

Margaret Beckett: We are still consulting on the shortlisted locations, so at this stage in the process we have not undertaken detailed assessments. However, the Financial Viability Study, which we published on 5 March 2009, provides an initial high level assessment on whether an eco-town could be economically viable and as part of this looks at transport costs. We will consider this along with consultation responses and the further assessment work that has been undertaken when we take decisions on the final shortlist of locations with potential to be an eco-town.

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much her Department spent on its financial viability study for eco-towns, broken down by cost category. [265287]

Margaret Beckett: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave him on 23 February 2009, *Official Report*, column 108W, which sets out the costs for the eco-towns programme, including for the work on financial assessment to date. The recently published Financial Viability Study was an output from this work and carried out for us by a team of external advisers.

Eco-towns: Public Consultation

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many responses to the current consultation on eco-towns have been received; and what proportion are in favour of the schemes. [265075]

Margaret Beckett: We will issue our response to the consultation in due course following the close of the consultation, and this will include a summary of the numbers of responses and comments received.

Eco-towns: St Austell

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much public funding she expects to be provided for the St. Austell eco-town development; and which organisations she expects to support the scheme. [265284]

Margaret Beckett: The eco-towns consultation is still under way and no decisions have yet been taken on the final list of locations with potential to be an eco-town, so I am unable to comment on funding and support for St. Austell or any of the shortlisted proposals.

Eco-towns: Whitehill-Bordon

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what estimate she has made of the cost of acquiring the land at Whitehill Bordon owned by the Ministry of Defence. [265275]

Margaret Beckett: We are still consulting on the eco-towns programme and at this stage of the process we have not undertaken a detailed assessment of the costs of acquiring land for the Whitehill-Bordon proposal.

Empty Property

Margaret Moran: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many empty homes have been brought back into use since the introduction of empty dwellings management orders. [267143]

Mr. Iain Wright: We do not hold this information centrally. Empty dwelling management orders (EDMOs) are part of a wider range of powers available to local authorities to tackle empty homes in their area. We want to encourage voluntary reoccupation of empty homes but this can only work where there is realistic compulsion to back them up. EDMOs provide this compulsion and should therefore be a key component of a comprehensive empty property strategy. We are confident that the legislation is beginning to work well and local authorities claim that in many cases the threat of an EDMO has been sufficient to make owners take action to bring long-term empty homes back into use.

We are keen for local authorities to make use of EDMOs, where appropriate, and are supporting the independent Empty Homes Agency's new guidance on EDMOs, which was launched on 10 March. The guidance is internet based and interactive and will take local authorities through the EDMO process step by step. My right hon. Friend the Minister for Housing provided a foreword for the guidance.

We are also hosting a seminar at which I will address local authorities encouraging them to take action and to share best practice on tackling empty homes, including the use of EDMOs.

Home Ownership Incentive Schemes

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) how much funding to support schemes and initiatives related to housing her Department has brought forward from *(a)* 2009-10 and *(b)* 2010-11; and if she will make a statement; [265268]

(2) what capital funding her Department has brought forward from its *(a)* 2009-10 and *(b)* 2010-11 budgets for use in (i) 2008-09 and (ii) 2009-10; and to what ends this funding has been allocated. [266188]

Mr. Khan: Communities and Local Government has brought forward £25 million of capital expenditure from 2009-10 and £1,475 million from 2010-11 as a result of initiatives announced in the September Housing Package and pre-Budget report.

£350 million has been brought forward to 2008-09, £1,000 million to 2009-10 and £55 million has been reallocated within 2010-11. This funding has been allocated to housing and regeneration programmes, including affordable housing, Decent Homes and the Community Infrastructure Fund. In addition £95 million has been made available for 2009-10 and 2010-11 to support reforms to Support for Mortgage Interest which is administered by the Department for Work and Pensions.

The pre-Budget report also offered flexibility to the regional development agencies to bring forward up to £100 million of capital expenditure from 2010-11 to 2009-10. In addition, Communities and Local Government has invited local authorities to bring forward up to £175 million from 2010-11 to 2009-10 to accelerate major repairs to council housing stock.

HomeBuy Scheme

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the average price of a property purchased through the MyChoiceHomeBuy scheme has been since the initiative began. [265006]

Margaret Beckett: The average price of property purchased through MyChoiceHomeBuy is £169,000.

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many unique visitors were received by the HomeBuy website in each month since its launch. [265007]

Margaret Beckett: There is no single HomeBuy website, as HomeBuy agents are responsible for marketing their schemes, and consequently run their own individual websites. Links to all HomeBuy agents can be found on:

www.homesandcommunities.co.uk/homebuy

The general public can access details of the scheme centrally from:

www.direct.gov.uk

and further information on HomeBuy is also provided at:

www.communities.gov.uk

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what she expects the average monthly interest charged by HomeBuy Direct *(a)* funders and *(b)* providers to be; and if she will make a statement. [265010]

Margaret Beckett: Each HomeBuy Direct purchaser will receive two equity loans—one provided by the Homes and Communities Agency and one by the relevant developer. These loans will always be of equal value, and their combined value will be between 15 per cent. and 30 per cent. of the property price. No fee will be charged on either equity loan for the first five years after purchase. From year six, an annual fee (levied monthly) of 1.75 per cent. will apply to each loan. The annual interest rate for the equity loans will rise annually by the retail price index (RPI) plus 1 per cent.

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the average monthly interest charged by MyChoiceHomeBuy *(a)* funders and *(b)* providers has been since the scheme began. [265011]

Margaret Beckett: This information is not held centrally. Information on the annual fee payable on the MyChoiceHomeBuy equity loan is available at:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/housing/buyingselling/ownershipschemes/homebuy/openmarkethomebuy/

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many MyChoiceHomeBuy providers there are in each region. [265012]

Margaret Beckett: There are eight MyChoice HomeBuy providers across the country, each of whom work in specific zones. The breakdown between the regions is as follows:

Region	*Number of MyChoice providers*	*Providers*
East Midlands	2	Metropolitan Bedfordshire Pilgrims
Eastern	3	Aldwyck Bedfordshire Pilgrims Moat
London	2	Metropolitan Tower
North East	1	Metropolitan
North West	1	Metropolitan
South East	3	Catalyst Moat Thames Valley
South West	1	Swaythling
West Midlands	1	Metropolitan

Region	*Number of MyChoice providers*	*Providers*
Yorkshire and Humberside	1	Metropolitan

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much *(a)* the Government and *(b)* its partners have provided for the HomeBuy Direct scheme; and how much will be provided in each of the next three years. [265017]

Margaret Beckett: The Government are making £400 million available in the remainder of 2008-09 and 2009-10 to help up to 18,000 first time buyers into home ownership through the HomeBuy Direct scheme. The actual amount of expenditure incurred by Government will depend on take-up, as well as on the actual value of the equity loans that are provided to purchasers. The actual amount that is spent by Government will be matched by the participating developers (in the form of funding for equity loans).

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many people have applied for assistance via the My ChoiceHomeBuy scheme; how many applications have been granted; and what the average level of support has been. [265068]

Margaret Beckett: 45,452 applications were made for the MyChoice HomeBuy scheme to the end of February 2009, of which 23,632 were approved by the provider for the purchaser to seek a property. Of the 3,300 applicants that purchased a property up to the end of February 2009 the average level of Government funding was £31,738.

Housing Defects Scheme

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what payments were made to local authorities under the Housing Defects Scheme in each of the last five years; and if she will make a statement. [265083]

Mr. Iain Wright: The following payments have been made to local authorities under the Housing Defects Scheme during the past five years:

	£
2004-05	15,439,860
2005-06	16,492,740
2006-07	14,119,990
2007-08	11,573,252
2008-09	7,483,339

Housing: Construction

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many *(a)* social and *(b)* private enterprise homes were built in each region in each of the last 20 quarters. [265088]

Mr. Iain Wright: The following table shows the number of new build affordable homes for social rent in England, by region. These figures are not available quarterly.

	2003-04	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*
North East	540	580	760	1,090	690
North West	1,130	1,270	1,220	1,480	2,040
Yorkshire and Humberside	1,150	1,040	1,090	1,370	1,340
East Midlands	1,030	1,130	1,470	1,370	1,810
West Midlands	1,710	1,860	2,060	1,300	2,060
Eastern	2,440	2,670	2,810	3,400	4,120
London	4,170	4,300	4,760	5,340	5,710
South East	3,710	3,910	3,860	4,040	4,680
South West	2,490	2,040	2,490	2,120	2,930
England	18,370	18,790	20,510	21,500	25,390

The social rent new build figures are from the Homes and Communities Agency Investment Management System (IMS), and Housing Strategy Statistical Appendix (HSSA) returns and P2 house building returns submitted to CLG by local authorities and the National House-Building Council (NHBC).

I have also answered a question for the hon. Gentleman, *Official Report*, column 70W, showing the number of affordable homes provided in England. The social rent new build figures differ from the number of affordable homes provided because the affordable housing figures include intermediate rent and low cost home ownership as well as social rent, and they include acquisitions as well as new builds. The social rent new build figures in this answer exclude social rent acquisitions, intermediate rent and low cost home ownership.

The following table shows the number of private enterprise house building completions, quarterly, for each region.

Quarter	*North East*	*North West*	*Yorks and Humber*	*East Midlands*	*West Midlands*	*Eastern*	*London*	*South East*	*South West*	*England*
January to March 2004	1,150	3,680	2,890	3,180	2,720	3,380	2,610	4,840	3,220	27,670
April to June 2004	1,770	3,850	4,080	3,470	3,240	4,280	4,690	6,220	4,130	35,730
July to September 2004	1,560	5,660	3,780	3,390	3,010	4,390	5,520	4,820	4,000	36,120
October to December 2004	1,760	4,290	3,180	4,360	3,690	5,180	4,880	6,180	4,290	37,810
January to Mar 2005	1,550	3,460	2,780	3,440	3,050	3,930	2,800	4,980	3,470	29,470
April to June 2005	1,740	4,350	3,700	3,830	4,200	4,240	3,450	6,380	4,820	36,710
July to September 2005	1,740	4,130	3,410	4,070	3,610	4,300	2,830	5,760	3,700	33,550
October to December 2005	2,140	6,580	4,780	4,470	4,000	5,340	3,970	6,310	4,420	42,010

Quarter	*North East*	*North West*	*Yorks and Humber*	*East Midlands*	*West Midlands*	*Eastern*	*London*	*South East*	*South West*	*England*
January to March 2006	1,520	4,810	3,880	3,210	3,090	3,710	3,360	5,120	3,990	32,670
April to June 2006	1,850	4,200	3,630	4,610	3,740	5,180	4,490	6,570	4,070	38,350
July to September 2006	1,430	3,320	3,720	3,580	3,670	4,390	3,480	4,760	4,000	32,340
October to December 2006	2,110	5,170	3,750	4,120	3,450	5,250	2,630	5,750	4,330	36.550
January to March 2007	2,110	4,480	4,660	4,350	3,290	4,780	3,830	5,800	5,160	38,450
April to June 2007	2,230	5,420	4,370	4,180	3,520	5,250	3,260	5,800	4,470	38.490
July to September 2007	1,630	4,090	3,860	3,870	2,650	4,740	4,050	5,460	3,610	33,950
October to December 2007	2,430	5,030	3,690	4,710	3,440	5,050	3,370	8,670	4,830	41,210
January to March 2008	1,190	5,010	3,240	3,250	2,360	3,810	2,280	5,140	3,680	29,940
April to June 2008	1,150	4,030	2,940	3,260	2,820	3,980	3,200	6,910	3,500	31,790
July to September 2008	930	2,710	2,860	2,000	2,110	3,070	2,880	5,470	3,810	28,630
October to December 2008	1,090	3,680	2,770	2,320	2,120	3,750	3,540	5,020	3,850	28,140

The private enterprise completions are from quarterly P2 house building returns submitted to CLG by local authorities and the NHBC.

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the Government's target is for the number of new homes to be built in each of the next three years; and if she will make a statement. [265097]

Mr. Iain Wright: The Housing Green Paper 'Homes for the Future: more affordable, more Sustainable', published in July 2007, set out the Government's ambition to increase housing supply.

Housing: Greater London

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) what the timetable is for her Department to agree the bids submitted by the Mayor of London on 1 December 2008 under the Targeted Funding Stream; [263148]

(2) when she expects to make a decision on recommendations made by the Mayor of London on 1 December 2008 to allocate *(a)* £90.7 million to bring empty homes back into use, reduce overcrowding and retrofit affordable housing stock, *(b)* £290 million to meet the Decent Homes standard, *(c)* £7.6 million to estate regeneration, *(d)* £35 million for improvements to the environmental standard of existing housing stock, *(e)* £9.2 million for improvements to the environmental standard of new affordable housing delivery and *(f)* £5.5 million to expedite affordable housing delivery in London. [263149]

Margaret Beckett: We have today approved grant allocations to local authorities for private sector renewal in 2009-10. Allocations are in line with the recommendations made by regional assemblies and Mayor of London.

Housing: Low Incomes

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much her Department spent on *(a)* the Design for Manufacture Competition and *(b)* the Competition's website in each year since 2004. [265262]

Margaret Beckett: The Department commissioned English Partnerships (EP) to deliver the Design for Manufacture (DfM) programme on our behalf. The Homes and Communities Agency (HCA) took over responsibility for the programme last December. To date, EP and the HCA have spent £541,154 running the competition. This figure includes the costs incurred by EP for the provision of technical advice, support, monitoring and evaluation, and for the publication of the document "Designed for Manufacture—Lessons Learnt" in June 2006. This figure does not include EP's DfM exhibition costs. Since its launch in 2005 the DfM website has cost approximately £19,085.25. This figure does not include the website hosting costs, which are not attributable directly to the DM website.

Housing: Overcrowding

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether she plans to re-assess her Department's definition of overcrowding in relation to housing; and if she will make a statement. [266476]

Mr. Iain Wright: The Government are committed to addressing overcrowding and to updating the statutory standards. We have invested over £4 million in 38 local authorities this year to enable them to develop strategies and action plans to tackle overcrowding. Part of this funding has been used to collect more robust data on overcrowding which will enable us to assess the cost and impact of updating the statutory standards. We expect to have further evidence from the pathfinders in late spring. In 2009-10, we are investing a further £5 million in these 38 pathfinders and expanding the programme to include a further 17 local authority areas.

Housing: Repairs and Maintenance

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what expenditure her Department incurred on the major repairs allowance in each year since 2001; and if she will make a statement. [266316]

Mr. Iain Wright: The total annual allowances for the major repairs allowance since 2001 in England are given in the attached table:

	£ billion
2001-02	1.59
2002-03	1.53
2003-04	1.46
2004-05	1.41
2005-06	1.36
2006-07	1.31
2007-08	1.28
2008-09	1.33

The allowances are calculated by and implemented through the HRA subsidy system for each local authority. The total allowance has decreased as large scale voluntary transfer has transferred councils housing to registered social landlords.

Housing: Standards

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government when she expects the next English House Condition Survey to be published. [266484]

Mr. Iain Wright: The 2007 English House Condition Annual Report will be published in summer 2009.

Infrastructure Planning Commission

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government when she expects the information transparency plan for the Infrastructure Planning Commission to be published. [266135]

Mr. Iain Wright: The Infrastructure Planning Commission (IPC) will to be subject to the Freedom of Information (FOI) Act and all FOI requirements. Once the IPC is established it will develop a publication scheme in accordance with the FOI Act, and this will be published in due course.

Julia Goldsworthy: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what estimate she has made of the Infrastructure Planning Commission's administration costs in 2009. [266521]

Mr. Iain Wright: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given to her on 17 March 2009, *Official Report*, column 1108W.

Local Government Finance: Chorley

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what information her Department holds on the programmes to which the *(a)* Local Authority Business Grant Incentive funding and *(b)* Area-based Grant made to Chorley Borough Council for the years 2009-10 to 2011-12 will be allocated. [264871]

John Healey: I refer my hon. Friend to the answer I gave him on 18 March 2009, *Official Report*, columns 1178-79W, where I explained that the Department does not require authorities to make returns detailing how they have spent their ABG allocation, or to make reports on performance other than those required under the new local performance framework.

LAGBI is also a non-ringfenced grant; we do not therefore collect and hold any specific information on the programmes to which local authorities allocate their funds.

Mortgages: Government Assistance

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) how much her Department has spent on publicising its Mortgage Rescue Scheme to date; and how much has been allocated for such expenditure in each of the next two financial years; [265956]

(2) how much her Department has spent on publicising its Homeowners Mortgage Support Scheme; and how much has been allocated for such expenditure in each of the next two financial years. [265957]

Margaret Beckett: The Department is conducting a public information campaign to publicise a wide range of support available to homeowners, including the Mortgage Rescue Scheme and the Homeowner Mortgage Support Scheme. This campaign is currently underway, and spend figures part way through the campaign are not available. Details of the Department's expenditure on this campaign will be made available in the Department's forthcoming annual report.

There are no current allocations made for such expenditure in the next two financial years.

Neighbourhood Renewal Fund

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) if she will place in the Library a copy of the qualifying criteria for the Neighbourhood Renewal Fund; [264979]

(2) if she will place in the Library a copy of the formula by which her Department calculates Neighbourhood Renewal Fund allocations for local authorities. [264980]

John Healey: The Working Neighbourhoods Fund (WNF) was launched in December 2007 by the Department for Communities and Local Government and the Department for Work and Pensions. The Neighbourhood Renewal Fund and DWP's Deprived Areas Fund were brought together in the WNF to create a single fund at the local level.

The criteria for qualification were published in the "The Working Neighbourhoods—Revising the Third Criteria—Consultation", published in November 2008 as clarified in "The Working Neighbourhoods Fund 2009 to 2011: Revising the Third Criterion consultation—Government Response" published in February 2009. I have placed both documents in the Library. Both documents are also available from the Communities and Local website at:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/communities/wnf200911consultationresponse

and

http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/communities/wnf200911consultation

respectively.

Eligible authorities needed to meet the following qualifying criteria:

> Have 20 per cent. or more of their lower super output areas in the most deprived 10 per cent. on the employment domain of the Index of Multiple Deprivation 2007;
>
> Have 20 per cent. or more of their lower super output areas in the most deprived 10 per cent. on the overall Index of Multiple Deprivation 2007; or
>
> Are ranked among the top 50 districts with the highest combined benefit/non- employment rate.

Local areas were only required to meet one of the above criteria to qualify for the fund.

The formula for WNF allocations can be found in paragraph 40 of 'The Working Neighbourhoods Fund 2009 to 2011—Revising the Third Criterion' document, published in February 2009, a copy of which I have also placed in the Library of the House. This document is also available on the Communities and Local Government website at

> http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/communities/wnf200911consultation

Non-Domestic Rates

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) what the average change in rateable value as a result of transitional rate relief in England was in *(a)* 2005-06, *(b)* 2006-07, *(c)* 2007-08 and *(d)* 2008-09; [265024]

(2) what the average monetary value of transitional rate relief in England was in *(a)* 2005-06, *(b)* 2006-07, *(c)* 2007-08 and *(d)* 2008-09. [265153]

John Healey: Outturn data for the net value of transitional relief granted in 2005-06 to 2007-08 can be found in the Statistical Release "National non-domestic rates collected by local authorities in England 2007-08" that was published on 17 September 2008. It is contained in table 1 at

> http://www.local.communities.gov.uk/finance/ctax/ndr078o.htm

These data are taken from NNDR3 forms submitted annually by all 354 billing authorities in England.

Budget estimate data on transitional relief to be granted in 2008-09 can be found in the Statistical Release "National non-domestic rates to be collected by local authorities in England 2008-09" that was published on 8 May 2008. It is contained in table 1 at

> http://www.local.communities.gov.uk/finance/ctax/ndr089.htm

These data are taken from NNDR1 forms submitted annually by all 354 billing authorities in England.

Non-Domestic Rates: Business

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the average change in business rate liability for firms previously receiving revaluation transitional rate relief will be as a consequence of the end of transitional relief in 2009-10. [265044]

John Healey: Data on individual hereditaments' bills are not held centrally.

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many businesses in England were eligible for transitional rate relief in 2008-09 but will no longer be eligible in 2009-10. [265045]

John Healey: This information is not held centrally.

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what estimate she has made of the cost of making the small business rate relief scheme automatic; and if she will make a statement. [265157]

John Healey: A business is eligible for small business rate relief if its sole or main property has a rateable value of less than £15,000 (or £21,500 in Greater London); and each additional property it occupies, if any, has a rateable value of no more than £2,200; and the total rateable value of all of its properties is less than £15,000 (£21,500 in Greater London).

While the Government hold information on the rateable value of individual properties, they do not currently hold information on the rateable value of all properties held by each individual business. It is not therefore currently possible to establish the number of businesses that meet the eligibility criteria for small business rate relief. That is why currently ratepayers must declare to the relevant billing authority that they meet the criteria for the relief. Without the declaration it is not possible to establish whether a ratepayer occupies more than one property.

Non-Domestic Rates: Small Businesses

Mr. Cawsey: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what her most recent estimate is of the number of businesses in each local authority area eligible for rate relief under the small business rate relief scheme. [265936]

John Healey: I refer my hon. Friend to the answer I gave the hon. Member for Rutland and Melton (Alan Duncan) on 29 April 2008, *Official Report*, column 319W.

Performing Arts

John Mason: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether her Department has engaged any *(a)* actors, *(b)* musicians and *(c)* other performers to support its initiatives over the last five years. [264064]

Mr. Khan: The information requested could be supplied only at disproportionate cost.

Planning Permission

Julia Goldsworthy: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what estimate she has made of the number of planning applications submitted to local authorities in *(a)* 2005, *(b)* 2006, *(c)* 2007 and *(d)* 2008. [266522]

Mr. Iain Wright: The number of planning applications received by local planning authorities in England since 2005 are shown in the following table:

	Number of planning applications received
2005	648,000
2006	641,000
2007	658,000
2008	[1]442,000

[1]Quarter 1 to Quarter 3 2008

Source:

Communities and Local Government Development Control returns

Data for 2008 are for the first three quarters of the year. Information on October to December 2008 will be published on 27 March 2009.

Planning: Horticulture

Bob Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if she will make it her policy that local planning officers should undertake mandatory training in horticulture; and if she will make a statement. [265902]

Mr. Iain Wright: As well as technical skills local planning officers need to have an understanding of a wide range of social, economic and environmental issues that impact on the planning system. These are covered in professional training through planning schools, continuing professional development and training and experience provided by employers. It is not Government policy to mandate particular training requirements for local authority planning staff. Local authorities have considerable autonomy in determining their recruitment policies and training programmes.

Property Transfer

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much was paid per home to each local authority which has opted for large-scale voluntary transfer of their housing stock in each year since 1997. [264996]

Mr. Khan: The following table incorporates information the Department holds on gross transfer values and dwelling numbers where local authorities received payment from the receiving local authority following the transfer of social housing under large scale voluntary transfer arrangements since 1997. Exact information on payments received by a local authority from the registered social landlord for a particular transfer would need to be ascertained from the local authority.

The values shown in the table are in respect of the gross transfer price for all positive value stock transfer where local authorities should have received a payment. In arriving at such values the Department and local authorities use a model agreed with HM Treasury to establish a 30 year tenanted market value (TMV) of the dwellings to be transferred. The TMV reflects the intended continued use of the properties for social housing: it is always less than the open market value. The TMV is calculated as the net present value of the RSL's projected stream of income from renting out the transferred stock, less its planned expenditure (including investment) stream. The precise details of payments received by LAs would need to be requested from LAS themselves.

Local authority	*Date of transfer*	*Gross transfer price (£ million)*	*Number of dwellings*	*Price per dwelling (£)*
Cotswold DC	28 February 1997	53.45	4,282	12,482
South Staffs C	7 March 1997	42.67	5,273	8,092
Lichfield DC	19 March 1997	40.88	4,921	8,307
South Oxfordshire DC	7 July 1997	68.33	5,018	13,617
Eden C	22 September 1997	16.99	1,510	11,251
LB Bexley	9 February 1998	49.40	4,118	11,996
LB Bexley	9 February 1998	34.99	4,097	8,540
Congleton BC	2 March 1998	32.24	4,061	7,939
Kerrier DC	23 March 1998	32.02	3,732	8,579
West Somerset DC	30 March 1998	25.70	1,869	13,750
Tewkesbury BC	27 April 1998	24.48	3,066	7,985
Rother DC	1 May 1998	30.80	3,058	10,072
West Devon BC	22 February 1999	13.52	1,446	9,346
South Somerset DC	1 March 1999	69.25	8,883	7,795
East Lindsey DC	1 March 1999	45.00	5,102	8,820
Manchester CC Darnhill	8 March 1999	0.85	1,030	825
South Hams District Council	22 March 1999	41.00	3,096	13,243
Telford and Wrekin C	25 March 1999	113.37	13,081	8,667
Worthing BC	29 March 1999	35.59	2,525	14,095
Bath and North East Somerset C	29 March 1999	79.49	9,887	8,040
Allerdale BC	31 March 1999	30.60	3,704	8,261
West Lindsey DC	18 October 1999	30.70	3,929	7,814
Boston BC	29 November 1999	43.40	4,871	8,907
Tynedale DC	20 December 1999	33.86	3,564	9,500
Newcastle Under Lyme BC	31 January 2000	54.00	9,887	5,462
Restormel BC	7 February 2000	25.11	3,577	7,018

Local authority	*Date of transfer*	*Gross transfer price (£ million)*	*Number of dwellings*	*Price per dwelling (£)*
Manchester CC (Colshaw Farm)	14 February 2000	0.90	600	1,500
North Devon DC	21February 2000	44.25	3,293	13,438
Burnley BC	8 March 2000	22.41	5,330	4,205
Manchester CC Sale Estate	20 March 2000	2.35	1,655	1,419
Weymouth and Portland C	20 March 2000	30.99	3,105	1,907
Huntingdon DC	20 March 2000	63.40	6,650	9,534
Elmbridge BC	27 March 2000	56.90	4,894	11,626
Test Valley BC	27 March 2000	79.99	5,495	14,559
Wyre Forest DC	27 March 2000	40.95	6,056	6,762
Manchester CC Whitefield Estate	27 March 2000	1.97	1,033	1,942
Tameside MBC	27 March 2000	127.50	16,446	7,743
LB Richmond	17 July 2000	59.50	7,139	8,335
Coventry CC	22 September 2000	49.50	20,125	2,460
Fylde BC	2 October 2000	12.00	1,905	6,300
Chester CC	27 November 2000	45.00	7,096	6,341
Horsham DC	11 December 2000	67.25	4,650	14,462
East Northamptonshire DC	19 February 2001	21.49	3,495	6,150
Torbay BC	19 February 2001	19.10	2,947	6,480
Staffordshire Moorlands DC	23 February 2001	19.67	3,132	6,290
Calderdale MBC	6 March 2001	36.00	12,759	2,821
Chichester DC	13 March 2001	78.50	5,321	14,752
Mendip DC	19 March 2001	35.00	4,326	8,091
West Wiltshire DC	26 March 2001	21.00	3,284	6,423
West Oxfordshire DC	26 March 2001	50.90	3,643	13,972
East Staffordshire BC	26 March 2001	24.50	5,637	4,346
Manchester CC Handforth Estate	26 March 2001	0.37	659	561
Sunderland CC	26 March 2001	219.80	36,356	6,045
Blackburn with Darwen BC	28 March 2001	35.40	9,886	3,580
Shrewsbury and Atcham BC	1 October 2001	63.40	5,500	11,527
Mid-Bedfordshire DC	5 November 2001	31.33	3,084	10,159
Derbyshire Dales	4 March 2002	24.80	3,287	7,544
Chelmsford BC	11 March 2002	79.60	6,902	11,530
East Hertfordshire DC	18 March 2002	32.10	2,687	11,937
		44.40	3,237	13,725
Erewash BC	25 March 2002	38.10	5,847	6,516
Reigate and Banstead BC	25 March 2002	64.00	4,846	13,212
St. Edmundsbury	24 June 2002	45.10	5,947	7,583
Vale Royal BC	1 July 2002	51.07	6,813	7,495
St. Helens MBC	1 July 2002	28.90	14,632	1,974
Redcar and Cleveland BC	15 July 2002	60.20	11,625	5,180
Knowsley MBC	15 July 2002	30.66	17,090	1,794
LB Waltham Forest	30 September 2002	1.87	2,242	834
County of Herefordshire C	25 November 2002	39.56	5,696	6,945
Carlisle CC	9 December 2002	12.98	7,198	1,803
Rushcliffe BC	20 January 2003	44.56	3,445	12,934
Liverpool CC Eastern Fringe (south)	23 January 2003	5.10	2,833	1,800
City of Bradford	24 February 2003	70.10	24,764	2,831
Amber Valley BC	24 February 2003	28.57	5,632	5,073
Crewe and Nantwich BC	10 March 2003	34.10	5,515	6,183
Walsall MBC (majority of stock)	27 March 2003	24.00	22,971	1,045
Craven DC	31 March 2003	17.60	1,541	11,421
Forest of Dean DC	31 March 2003	24.50	3,577	6,849
North Hertfordshire DC	31 March 2003	27.00	8,570	3,150
Scarborough BC	15 December 2003	24.25	4,632	5,235
Maidstone BC	2 February 2004	35.82	6,810	5,260
Teignbridge	4 February 2004	12.90	3,647	3,537
Cherwell	29 March 2004	42.85	3,656	11,720
Bromsgrove	29 March 2004	16.50	3,096	5,329
Hartlepool	29 March 2004	3.20	7,509	426
Worcester	31 March 2004	5.31	4,888	1,086
South Norfolk	17 May 2004	31.60	4,214	7,499

Local authority	*Date of transfer*	*Gross transfer price (£ million)*	*Number of dwellings*	*Price per dwelling (£)*
Copeland BC	7 June 2004	1.20	3,787	317
Purbeck	28 June 2004	15.60	1,622	9,617
Manchester (Woodhouse Park)	4 October 2004	1.50	2,344	640
Peterborough	4 October 2004	46.25	9.757	4.740
Forest Heath	11 October 2004	23.40	2,653	8,820
Middlesbrough	15 November 2004	10.00	11,968	836
Wirral	7 February 2005	49.75	13,997	3,556
Trafford	14 March 2005	5.60	9,509	588
Wakefield	21 March 2005	15.50	31,901	486
Manchester CC (Haughton Green)	18 April 2005	0.15	933	162
Halton	5 December 2005	4.50	6,227	723
Tower Hamlets (Island Homes)	5 December 2005	5.38	1,260	4,270
Tower Hamlets (Island Gardens)	15 January 2006	2.86	552	5,181
Broxbourne	23 January 2006	36.30	3,433	10,574
Stafford BC	6 February 2006	3.70	5,419	682
North Somerset	6 February 2006	27.13	6,157	4,406
North Norfolk	13 February 2006	34.80	4,651	7,482
Kings Lynn and West Norfolk BC	3 April 2006	13.71	6,852	2,001
Teesdale DC	3 July 2006	4.46	897	4,972
Aylesbury Vale DC	17 July 2006	43.00	7,470	5,756
Macclesfield BC	17 July 2006	19.30	5,123	3,781
Tower Hamlets (Lansbury)	14 August 2006	4.18	606	6,891
Derwentside DC	4 December 2006	2.30	6,884	334
South Gloucestershire	12 February 2007	16.52	7,882	2,095
Chorley	26 March 2007	2.23	2,813	790
LB Sutton (Roundshaw)	16 April 2007	6.20	524	11,832
Sheffield (Hyde Park Walk and Terrace)	11 June 2007	0 20	129	1,550
North Shropshire DC	30 July 2007	6.70	2,317	2,891
Watford BC	10 September 2007	24.00	4,468	5,371
Rochford DC	26 September 2007	1.86	1,749	1,063
Mole Valley	29 October 2007	35.00	3,170	11,041
Daventry DC	5 November 2007	15.70	3,099	5,066
Fenland DC	5 November 2007	41.60	3,670	11,335
Braintree DC	12 November 2007	25.60	7,644	3,349
Harborough DC	3 December 2007	7.50	2,118	3,541
Torridge DC	10 December 2007	0.60	2,354	255
Wellingborough BC	10 December 2007	3.00	4,548	659
Bracknell Forest BC	11 February 2008	34.50	6,690	5,156
South Northamptonshire Council	17 March 2008	15.00	2,894	5,183
Three Rivers DC	19 March 2008	26.60	3,807	6,987
LB Lewisham (Grove Park)	7 July 2008	1.00	1,099	910
Blaby District Council	3 November 2008	2.90	2,126	1,364

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much she estimates will be provided in *(a)* 2008-09 and *(b)* 2009-10 (i) to write off overhanging housing debt for local authorities who privatise their housing stock and (ii) for council house repairs and renovations in those authorities. [264998]

Mr. Iain Wright: The Department expects to pay £515 million in overhanging debt (OHD) to the Public Works Loan Boards in respect of completed large scale voluntary transfers in 2008-09. We estimate that overhanging debt payments in 2009-10 may total up to £300 million.

For those authorities that transferred either all or part of their housing stock in 2008-09, the Department has allocated allowances for management, maintenance and major repairs of a value of £320 million.

It is too early to provide an accurate forecast of the expenditure allowances to be provided to stock transferring authorities for 2009-10.

Regional Planning and Development

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what remuneration is given to each member of each of the Regional Improvement and Efficiency Partnerships. [265064]

John Healey: The Regional Improvement and Efficiency Partnerships (RIEPs) are devolved partnerships of councils and other local services. Information on remuneration packages for RIEPs members is not held centrally.

Rented Housing

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what proportion of rented homes in England were owned by *(a)* housing associations, *(b)* local authorities and *(c)* private landlords in each of the last five years. [265001]

Mr. Iain Wright: The following table shows the dwelling stock in England rented from registered social landlords, local authorities and private landlords as a proportion of the estimated total rented dwelling stock in each of the last five years for which data are available.

	Rented from registered social landlords (percentage)	*Rented from local authorities (percentage)*	*Rented from private landlords (percentage)*	*Total rented dwellings (thousand)*
2003	26	38	36	6,393
2004	26	36	37	6,426
2005	28	33	39	6,493
2006	28	32	41	6,600
2007	28	29	43	6,740

Sources:
Census 2001; Housing Flows Reconciliation and joint returns by local authorities; Housing Strategy Statistical Appendix (HSSA) submitted to Communities and Local Government by local authorities; Regulatory Statistical Return (RSR) as reported to the Housing Corporation by registered social landlords; Labour Force Survey.

Rented Housing: Overcrowding

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what estimate she has made of the number and proportion of *(a)* households and *(b)* people in the (i) private and (ii) social rented sector living in overcrowded conditions in each of the last five years. [266320]

Mr. Iain Wright: Levels of overcrowding are measured through the Survey of English Housing and assessed against the "bedroom standard". Estimates of the number and proportion of households living in overcrowded conditions in the private rented and social rented sectors in England are given in table 1. Corresponding estimates of the number and proportion of people in overcrowded conditions are given in table 2. A three year moving average is provided due to small sample sizes for these groups.

Table 1: Estimated number of households in overcrowded conditions, England, 2003-04 to 2007-08, three year moving average[1]

	2003-04	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*
Thousands of overcrowded households					
Social renters	195	205	216	229	234
Private renters	84	99	109	125	126
Percentage of all households by tenure					
Social renters	5.3	4.9	5.2	5.5	5.9
Private renters	3.9	4.1	4.6	4.7	5.1

[1] A three year moving average is used due to sample size issues. 2003-04 estimates are the average of 2001-02, 2002-03 and 2003-04.
Source:
Communities and local government, Survey for English Housing

Table 2: Estimated number of people living in overcrowded conditions, England, 2003-04 to 2007-08, three year moving average[1]

	2003-04	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*
Thousands of people in overcrowded conditions					
Social renters	889	936	950	1,045	1,069
Private renters	353	397	433	512	537
Percentage of all people by tenure					
Social renters	10.2	10.9	11.3	12.2	12.3
Private renters	7.8	8.2	8.3	9.2	9.2

[1] A three year moving average is used due to sample size issues. 2003-04 estimates are the average of 2001-02, 2002-03 and 2003-04.
Source:
Communities and local government, Survey for English Housing

Rented Housing: Regulation

Mrs. Lait: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what responsibilities the Tenant Services Agency has in respect of regulation of public sector leaseholders. [265774]

Mr. Iain Wright: The Tenant Services Authority has no responsibilities in respect of leaseholders who own 100 per cent. of the interest in their homes. Leaseholders already have access to a wide range of protections and rights. The Housing and Regeneration Act 2008 limits the Tenant Services Authority's future regulatory remit to 'social housing', which includes low cost rental and low cost home ownership accommodation as defined in sections 69-70 of the Act (including some types of "shared ownership" agreement), but not other owner-occupied homes or the private rented sector. However the Tenant Services Authority is likely to be interested in how registered providers deliver management across their stock.

Repossession Orders

Mr. Vara: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many *(a)* sole owners, *(b)* joint owners and *(c)* first-time buyers have had their properties repossessed in (a) North West Cambridgeshire constituency, (b) Cambridgeshire, (c) the East of England and (d) England in each of the last five years; and how many of those were aged (i) 18 to 30, (ii) 31 to 40, (iii) 41 to 50, (iv) 51 to 60 and (v) over 60 years. [264758]

Mr. Iain Wright: The Department does not collect data on repossessions. Repossessions data at the UK level are available from the Council of Mortgage Lenders and Financial Services Authority. These data are not split out by sole owners and joint owners, first time buyers and non-first time buyers, or by region. Nor are they split out by different age groups.

The only sub-national figures relating to repossessions are for possession orders. Statistics on mortgage and landlord possession orders for the county courts are available via the Ministry of Justice website at:

http://www.justice.gov.uk/docs/stats-landlord-mortgage-historic-20-02-09.xls

Social Rented Housing: Standards

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer of 24 February 2009, *Official Report*, column 556W, on social rented housing: standards, how many homes each percentage figure in the table represents. [266503]

Mr. Iain Wright: The following table provides the information requested. This is drawn from the Business Plan Statistical Appendix—Annual Monitoring data from Local Authorities for 2007-08 published by CLG last month. The RSL data are from the Regulatory Statistical Return (RSR) for 2007-08 published by the Housing Corporation (now Tenant Services Authority) last autumn.

Number of social homes meeting the decent homes standard

	Local authorities			*RSLs*	
	2007	*2008*	*2010*	*2007*	*2008*
Birmingham	42,713	51,276	65,711	35,271	36,635
Bradford	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	26,793	28,426
Bristol	24,356	25,098	27,703	9,059	9,325
Coventry	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	22,176	22,668
Derby	13,549	13,746	13,746	5,913	6,325
Dudley	19,166	20,087	22,434	3,812	3,832
Kingston-upon-Hull	9,845	14,012	22,757	6,579	6,564
Leeds	38,691	46,288	57,849	13,817	14,352
Leicester	18,984	20,325	21,756	9,702	9,772
Liverpool	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	37,448	44,682
London	283,421	302,118	361,162	299,159	315,239
Manchester	9,098	13,131	23,328	29,978	34,480
Newcastle-upon-Tyne	3,019	8,922	21,866	6,823	6,784
Nottingham	19,083	20,058	20,223	8,721	8,905
Plymouth[2]	7,661	6,638	2,269	6,418	6,219
Reading	6,494	6,740	7,176	3,711	3,898
Sheffield	20,468	27,893	30,179	12,988	13,534
Southampton	12,875	13,850	16,480	5,865	6,199
Stoke-on-Trent	14,624	15,282	18,019	6,116	6,359
Wolverhampton	10,533	13,582	18,048	5,060	5,402

[1] No current stock.
[2] Housing transfer to new RSL November 2009.

Decent Homes forecasts by local authority for registered social landlords' property are not available.

Social Rented Housing: Waiting Lists

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) what estimate she has made of the net change in the number of *(a)* households, *(b)* individuals and *(c)* children on social housing waiting lists in each of the last 20 quarters; [265324]

(2) what estimate she has made of the number of *(a)* households, *(b)* individuals and *(c)* children on social housing waiting lists in each of the last 20 quarters. [265325]

Mr. Iain Wright: The number of households on the local authority housing waiting list is collected on the Housing Strategy Statistical Appendix (HSSA) as at 1 April each year. This information is not collected quarterly and is not collected for individuals or children. Where local authorities and registered social landlords operate a common register, households registered with the RSL will be included in the data. However, registered social landlords are independent bodies and can keep their own waiting lists. The number of households on the housing waiting list in each local authority is published on the Communities and Local Government website in table 600.

http://www.communities.gov.uk/documents/housing/xls/table600.xls

The table shows the number of households on the local authority housing waiting list and the associated annual net change for each year for the past five years (which encompasses the last 20 quarters).

Number of households on the waiting list and annual net change (excludes households looking for transfers): England, 2003-08

	Count	*Net change from previous year*
2003	1,271,000	—
2004	1,438,000	167,000
2005	1,547,000	110,000
2006	1,634,000	87,000
2007	1,674,000	40,000
2008	1,770,000	96,000

Notes:
1. As at 1 April each year
2. Figures are rounded to the nearest thousand
Source:
Housing Strategy Statistical Appendix (HSSA)

Not everyone on the local authority housing waiting list is necessarily in urgent housing need. The waiting list includes those who consider social housing as their preferred or one of a number of housing options, and those who decide to get onto the waiting list ladder before they need or want to move house—particularly where the priority system is heavily based on waiting time. The size of the waiting list is not an indicator of absolute need, it is only useful as a broad indicator of housing demand in an area.

Further information on the number of households on the local authority housing waiting lists for England, can be found in the statistical release "Local Authority Housing Statistics England: 2007-08: Housing Strategy Statistical Appendix (HSSA) & Business Plan Statistical Appendix (BPSA)" This was published on 22 January 2009 on the Communities and Local Government website at:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/corporate/statistics/lahousing200708

Copies of the statistical release and live table have been deposited in the Library.

Temporary Accommodation

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what estimate she has made of the number of households in temporary accommodation in each of the last 20 quarters. [266336]

Mr. Iain Wright: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given to him on 24 March 2009, *Official Report*, column 223W.

Tenancy Deposit Scheme

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what estimate she has made of the proportion of tenancy agreements in the private rented sector which are protected under the Tenancy Deposit Scheme. [266321]

Mr. Iain Wright: I refer to my answer of 17 March 2009, *Official Report*, column 1115W. We have not made any estimate of the proportion of tenancy agreements in the private rented sector represented by the 1.2 million deposits and almost £1 billion protected under the tenancy deposit protection provisions.

Tenants Rights

Margaret Moran: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what plans she has to implement the recommendations made by the Law Commission on tenancies and tenants' right made in 2006. [267142]

Mr. Iain Wright: I refer my hon. Friend to the answer given on 11 March, *Official Report*, column 498W. The Government's response to the Law Commission's report—Renting Homes—will be incorporated into the response to the Rugg review.

Tenants Service Authority

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much the Tenants Service Authority has spent on branding since its establishment. [266199]

Mr. Iain Wright: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given to the hon. Member for Meriden (Mrs. Spelman) on 29 January 2009, *Official Report*, column 784W.

Unitary Councils: Coastal Areas

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what recent assessment she has made of the performance of unitary authorities in which seaside and coastal towns are located. [265497]

John Healey: The Audit Commission is responsible for assessing English councils' performance and the services they provide (such as housing, environment, benefits and culture as well as cross cutting issues like regeneration and community safety) through the Comprehensive Performance Assessment (CPA) system. CPA provides local people with a report card of how their council is performing overall compared to other councils. It measures a range of information such as performance levels, inspection and audit reports, corporate governance and self-assessment by the council to reach a single judgment.

The 2008 CPA results for single tier and county councils were published by the Audit Commission on 5 March; scores for individual authorities can be found on the Commission's website:

http://www.audit-commission.gov.uk/cpa/stcc/stccscores.asp

CPA will be replaced by Comprehensive Area Assessment (CAA) from 1 April 2009 as part of the new local performance framework. CAA will apply to all outcomes delivered by local authorities acting alone or in partnership, unlike CPA which focused on services provided by individual councils.

PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMISSION

National Audit Office: Pay

Mr. Hollobone: To ask the Chairman of the Public Accounts Commission for what reasons the Commission agreed at its meeting of 16 December 2008 that the Comptroller and Auditor General's pay should be linked to that of the Lord Chief Justice. [265724]

Mr. Alan Williams: While discussing the Government's draft clauses on the NAO's corporate governance, the Commission considered two options for the C&AG's pay: linking to the range of salaries received by Permanent Secretaries and linking to the judicial pay scale. Since the salaries of Permanent Secretaries include a performance bonus, and the draft legislation specifies that the C&AG's salary should not have a performance element, the Commission preferred a link to the judicial pay scale.

The current C&AG is paid on the judicial pay scale and this arrangement provides transparency. Although the Commission does not set the C&AG's pay, and would not do so under the terms of the draft legislation, it discussed what the level of that pay should be under the new corporate governance arrangements, and the consensus view within the Commission was that the C&AG ought to be paid the same as the Lord Chief Justice in order to reflect the responsibilities of the post.

ENERGY AND CLIMATE CHANGE

Biofuels: Imports

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how much bio-ethanol was imported from Brazil to meet bio-gas requirements in the latest period for which figures are available. [265299]

Angela Eagle: I have been asked to reply.

The EU classification system used to collect trade data does not directly identify biofuels. The nearest equivalents are the categories 'Undenatured bioethanol 80 per cent. alcohol by volume or higher' and 'Denatured bioethanol of any alcoholic strength', for the subset of goods "obtained from agricultural products".

In 2008, the UK imported 82.7 million litres of 'undenatured bioethanol 80 per cent. alcohol by volume or higher' from Brazil valued at £22.8 million and with a net mass of 69.3 thousand tonnes. There were no importations of 'denatured bioethanol of any alcoholic strength' for goods obtained from agricultural products.

As the coverage is not specific to biofuels, it is not known if this trade was imported to meet bio-gas requirements.

Carbon Emissions

Greg Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what methodological changes in the measurement of carbon dioxide emissions the Government has adopted since January 2008. [259265]

Joan Ruddock: The 1990 to 2007 inventory is the latest UK inventory that considers methodological changes in CO_2 emission estimates adopted since January 2008. There have been no major methodological changes affecting CO_2 emission estimates in this inventory. Small changes in the CO_2 inventory have occurred due to changes in reported energy statistics presented in the Digest of UK Energy Statistics and also as a result of introducing EU Emissions Trading Scheme carbon emission factors for some fuels burnt in power stations and refineries. The 1990 to 2007 inventory will be formally reported to the Framework Convention on Climate Change on 15 April 2009, after which the inventory report, which contains detailed explanations of methodologies, will be available.

Carbon Trust and Energy Saving Trust

Greg Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change with which public affairs companies *(a)* the Carbon Trust and *(b)* the Energy Saving Trust had contracts in 2008. [255941]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The Carbon Trust inform us that they retained Weber Shandwick until 31 October 2008 and TLG Communications Ltd from 17 November 2008 to provide public affairs strategic advice and support; and Grayling Political Strategy to provide public affairs strategic advice and support in relation to Scotland.

The Energy Saving Trust tell us they had contracts with the following public affairs companies in 2008: Positif Politics Ltd, Strategem, Weber Shandwick Public Affairs and Geronimo Communications.

Coal: Imports

Mr. Kemp: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how much coal was imported from each country of origin in each of the last 10 years. [265829]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The table shows the amount of coal imported by country of origin for each year between 2001 and 2007. Figures prior to 2001 are not readily available.

Coal imports into the UK by country of origin, 2001-07

Thousand tonnes

	2001	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*
European Union							
Belgium/Luxembourg	6	2	12	11	14	2	1
Denmark	—	—	—	—	—	10	7
Estonia	—	—	—	22	15	17	46
France	—	17	19	50	4	5	—
Germany	—	10	2	13	16	50	13
Irish Republic	73	46	57	40	55	19	23
Italy	—	—	14	—	—	—	7
Latvia	—	—	—	11	118	304	130
Netherlands	157	257	246	193	197	188	170
Poland[1]	—	—	—	1,298	647	836	130
Portugal	—	—	—	8	—	—	—
Spain	—	9	21	26	41	46	11
Sweden	5	25	—	—	—	—	—
Total European Union	240	366	369	1,580	1,092	1,507	557
Australia	7,076	5,083	5,664	6,175	4,463	4,057	4,745
Canada	1,182	750	839	740	1,084	1,282	1,462
Colombia	6,722	3,547	3,396	3,630	3,289	3,798	3,872
Indonesia	50	45	402	1,458	1,616	1,895	1,455
Norway	20	164	145	138	—	20	42
People's Republic of China	305	288	210	233	135	44	255
Poland[1]	1,235	1,596	1,902	—	—	—	—
Republic of South Africa	10,250	9,876	12,194	10,144	13,029	12,642	7,729
Russia	3,095	4,368	5,089	9,932	17,521	22,285	20,106
United States of America	2,640	1,567	1,154	2,061	1,509	2,024	2,523
Venezuela	56	—	—	39	—	—	—
Vietnam	92	86	45	23	—	19	—
Other countries	1,396	940	480	—	225	30	29
Total all countries	35,542	28,687	31,891	36,153	43,963	49,693	42,975

[1] Poland joined the EU in 2004.

Source:

Annex G.5: Imports and exports of solid fuels, Digest of UK Energy Statistics 2008, Internet version, based on data provided by HM Revenue and Customs.

Coal-fired Power Stations

Simon Hughes: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change pursuant to the Answer of 17 March 2009 to the hon. Member for Wealden (Charles Hendry), *Official Report*, columns 998-99W, on departmental public consultation, if he will defer any decisions on applications for new coal-fired power stations until the completion of his Department's consultation on a new framework for coal-fired power stations. [265901]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: Decisions on any applications for new coal-fired power stations, including the only current application (by E.ON UK plc for consent under section 36 of the Electricity Act 1989 for a 1600 MW coal-fired power station at Kingsnorth) will follow the conclusion of both the consultation on carbon capture readiness and the planned new consultation on a new framework for coal-fired power stations.

Departmental Lost Property

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change whether officials in his Department who have lost laptops that were the property of his Department in the last 12 months have been charged the full value of replacement. [266232]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The Department currently uses IT equipment and services including laptop computers provided by the Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform and the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs.

Departmental Manpower

Mr. Greg Knight: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how many staff his Department employs; and at how many locations in London they are based. [265918]

Mr. Mike O'Brien *[holding answer 24 March 2009]*: The Department currently employs 760 staff in three locations in London.

Departmental Press Releases

Greg Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change if he will place in the Library a copy of the *(a)* presentation and *(b)* handout used at the press briefing held by his Department on 9 February 2009. [257583]

Mr. Mike O'Brien *[holding answer 23 February 2009]:* There was no formal presentation, but a handout containing readily available background information on types of renewable heat technology was made available. The same information is found on pages 23-25 of the Heat and Energy Saving Strategy consultation document available at:

http://hes.decc.gov.uk.

Departmental Public Consultation

Mr. Vara: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how many public consultations his Department has conducted in the last 12 months; how long each consultation was open for; how many responses were received in each case; and what the cost of conducting each consultation was. [259691]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: Between 3 October 2008 (when the Department was formed) and 23 March 2009, the Department of Energy and Climate Change conducted 14 public consultations of which two have now closed. All but one of the consultations are, or were, open for at least 12 weeks in line with HM Government's Code of Practice. The number of responses received for completed consultations (on carbon units and offshore electricity transmission) was 43 and 24 respectively.

Providing the costs of conducting the consultations could be done only at disproportionate cost.

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what payments for *(a)* polling and *(b)* other services his Department has made to (i) Deborah Mattinson and (ii) Opinion Leader Research Limited since its creation; and if he will make a statement. [261058]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: Since its creation in October 2008, the Department for Energy and Climate Change has made no payments to Deborah Martinson or Opinion Leader Research.

Departmental Responsibilities

Greg Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change whether his Department has lead responsibility for *(a)* the Advisory Committee on Carbon Abatement Technologies, *(b)* the Fuel Poverty Advisory Group, *(c)* the Renewables Advisory Board, *(d)* the Civil Nuclear Police Atomic Authority, *(e)* the Coal Authority and *(f)* the UK Police Atomic Energy Authority. [255949]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State has lead responsibility for the Advisory Committee on Carbon Abatement Technologies, the Fuel Poverty Advisory Group, the Renewables Advisory Board, the Civil Nuclear Police Atomic Authority and the Coal Authority.

Prior to 1 April 2005, the Civil Nuclear Constabulary was known as the United Kingdom Atomic Energy Authority Constabulary (UKAEAC), and had been a part of the United Kingdom Atomic Energy Authority (UKAEA) since its inception in 1955. The Energy Act 2004 made provision for the transfer of the constabulary from the UKAEA to a statutory police authority, called the civil nuclear police authority.

Departmental Training

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change whether his Department has provided voice coaching to any of its employees in the last 12 months. [260652]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The Department of Energy and Climate Change has been formed by bringing together work previously covered by the Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform and the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs. There are no centrally co-ordinated or funded voice coaching programmes provided for its employees. Funding for some learning and development is delegated to local business units. A disproportionate cost would be incurred in maintaining a central record of these activities.

Electric Vehicles

Mr. Ancram: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change if he will take steps to ensure that electrically-powered cars and other vehicles have ready access to electric points for charging batteries. [265131]

Jim Fitzpatrick: I have been asked to reply.

The Department for Transport has provided grants through the Alternative Fuels Infrastructure Grant Programme (AFIGP) to support the installation of re-charging infrastructure through the Energy Saving Trust.

So far, 82 re-charging points have been installed with Government support. A number of private companies and local authorities have also installed re-charging points as well. We are currently negotiating with the EU to seek approval to extend the AFIGP.

On 15 January, the Secretary of State for Transport also announced £250 million to promote the take-up, and commercialisation within the UK, of ultra, low emission road vehicles. We anticipate that a small proportion of this funding will be used to support infrastructure for electric and plug-in hybrid electric cars.

Electricity Generation

Gregory Barker: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what assessment the Government has made of the potential contribution of broadband communications to the development of a smart grid electricity network. [255174]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The 'smart grid' concept could potentially encompass a range of technologies including advanced communications and information management systems, advanced metering and automated control technologies, that would enable greater active management of the supply and demand on the networks. The Government have already announced a roll-out of smart meters to all homes with an indicative timetable for completion of end 2020. Suppliers will also be required to roll out advanced smart meters to larger businesses over the next five years.

We are supportive of new proposals by Ofgem under its current Electricity Distribution Price Control Review that seek to encourage network operators to undertake greater innovation and trialling of new technologies and to develop new ways of operating their networks that might be needed in the future. These new proposals are in addition to the existing Innovation Funding Incentive and Registered Power Zone schemes which were introduced in 2005 to encourage innovative technical solutions.

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change if he will take steps to monitor levels of private sector investment in the electricity grid, with particular reference to *(a)* maintenance and *(b)* new capital projects. [265481]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: Monitoring of investment in networks for both maintaining existing assets and creating new transmission/distribution capability falls to Ofgem. Ofgem have recently finalised the provisions of the transmission price control for the period 2007-12, with substantial increases in allowances for capital investment.

Energy: Consumption

Dr. Gibson: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change if he will take steps to encourage energy companies to curtail consumer demand for electricity. [264696]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: Government place an obligation on energy suppliers to promote household energy efficiency through the carbon emission reduction target (CERT). DECC is currently consulting on increasing the CERT target by 20 per cent., which will require more activity from energy suppliers to promote energy saving measures in homes.

The CERT consultation is also proposing to introduce behavioural measures into CERT which includes real time displays and home energy advice which will give householders a better understanding of how they use energy and how to reduce their energy consumption.

Opinion Leader Research

Mr. Baron: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how much his Department has paid Opinion Leader Research since its establishment. [265975]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: Nothing.

Renewable Energy: Expenditure

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how much central Government funding for renewable energy *(a)* research and *(b)* capital programmes there has been in respect of (i) nuclear power, (ii) biomass, (iii) wind power, (iv) hydroelectric power, (v) solar energy, (vi) marine power and (vii) anaerobic energy in each of the last 20 years. [250720]

Mr. Mike O'Brien *[holding answer 26 January 2009]*: I have today placed in the Libraries of the House the information about known activities funded by DECC, BERR, DEFRA and DIUS.

Renewable Energy: Finance

Greg Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what the budget for the Renewables Advisory Board in *(a)* 2008-09 and *(b)* each of the next five financial years is. [255933]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The budget for the RAB for the financial year 2008-09 is £301,366.

Budgets are currently being reviewed for the Department and the RAB annual budget for future years is yet to be allocated.

Renewable Energy: Urban Areas

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how many renewable energy plants serving urban areas there are in the UK. [265443]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: In 2007 there were 1,436 renewable energy sites throughout the UK generating electricity (source RESTATS).

Once generation, whether renewable or conventional, is connected to the transmission networks the location of that generator will not necessarily relate to where the electricity is ultimately consumed. Generation is supplied around the transmission network to Distribution Network Operators who will then distribute generation to businesses and consumers in their areas line with their demand. National Grid Electricity Transmission (NGET) will balance that supply and demand for the whole network.

Warm Front Scheme

Greg Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how many households received only energy efficient light bulbs under the Warm Front Scheme in each of the last 10 years. [256853]

Joan Ruddock: All eligible households that apply to Warm Front receive energy efficient light bulbs and energy efficiency advice from a Warm Front assessor in addition to appropriate heating and energy efficiency measures.

The information requested is available from the current scheme manager from the introduction of the Warm Front scheme. Measures delivered by previous scheme managers working on Warm Front prior to 2005 are unavailable. The number of households that received only energy efficient light bulbs (alongside energy efficiency advice) in each scheme year is in the following table:

Number of households who received energy efficient light bulbs and no other measures under the Warm Front scheme (eaga only)

Scheme year	*Number of households*
2000-01	1,493.00
2001-02	2,570.00
2002-03	45,389.00
2003-04	26,929.00

Number of households who received energy efficient light bulbs and no other measures under the Warm Front scheme (eaga only)

Scheme year	Number of households
2004-05	25,303.00
2005-06	25,089.00
2006-07	45,472.00
2007-08	48,982.00
2008-09	32,305.00
Total	253,432.00

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change when the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State plans to provide further clarification as referred to in his reply to the letter from the hon. Member for Hemel Hempstead of 4 February 2009 on Warm Front schemes. [263136]

Joan Ruddock: I replied to the hon. Member for Hemel Hempstead on 25 March 2009.

Charles Hendry: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how many companies are registered to install energy efficiency products under the Warm Front scheme. [266078]

Joan Ruddock *[holding answer 24 March 2009]*: There are currently 121 companies registered to install the range of energy efficient heating and insulation improvements delivered under the Warm Front Scheme. This figure excludes sub-contractors.

WOMEN AND EQUALITY

Departmental Ministerial Policy Advisers

Grant Shapps: To ask the Minister for Women and Equality how much was claimed in reimbursable expenses by special advisers in her Office in each year since its inception; and how much has been spent in 2008-09 to date. [260298]

Maria Eagle: Costs incurred on reimbursable expenses in 2008-09 will be available only when the Government Equalities Office' resource accounts are fully audited and laid before Parliament. This is expected to be before the 2009 summer recess.

Members: Correspondence

Clare Short: To ask the Minister for Women and Equality when she plans to reply to the letter of 26 January 2009 from the right hon. Member for Birmingham, Ladywood on equal pay for work of equal value. [264503]

Maria Eagle: A reply has been sent to the right hon. Member.

Regional Equality and Diversity Partnerships

Robert Neill: To ask the Minister for Women and Equality what *(a)* funding and *(b)* other resources the Government Equalities Office has provided to each Regional Equality and Diversity Partnership in the last 12 months. [259427]

Maria Eagle: The Government Equalities Office has not provided any funding or resources to Regional Equality and Diversity Partnerships over the past 12 months.

INNOVATION, UNIVERSITIES AND SKILLS

Economic Situation

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what *(a)* summits, *(b)* conferences and *(c)* seminars his Department has hosted since January 2008 at which a primary subject for discussion was the impact of the economic situation on matters within his Department's responsibility. [260149]

Mr. Simon: DIUS hosted events at which a primary subject of discussion was the effect of the economic situation on matters within DIUS' responsibility are listed in the following table.

Event	Event type	Date
DIUS Group meeting and DIUS Family (delivery partners) drinks reception to bring them on board with the narrative of how DIUS can help people and business through downturn	Seminar and reception	19 November 2008
Small and Medium Enterprise (SME) Panel: Secretary of State discussing changes to Train to Gain funding with SMEs.	Seminar	26 November 2008
Local business seminar, in Hoylake, Wirral, focusing on DIUS and its role in supporting and facilitating the development of small businesses.	Seminar	8 January 2009
DIUS Family (delivery partners) Awayday to discuss the DIUS response to the downturn.	Seminar	27 January 2009
'Staying Ahead – investing in science during the down-turn' at the Royal Academy of Engineering	Seminar	19 February 2009

Higher Education: Admissions

Jeff Ennis: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what percentage of young people living in *(a)* Barnsley and *(b)* Doncaster entered university in each of the last 10 years. [264530]

Mr. Lammy: It is not possible to identify young people from Barnsley and Doncaster who did not enter university, therefore the percentage of young people from Barnsley and Doncaster who entered university cannot be calculated.

The number of young undergraduate entrants from Barnsley and Doncaster is shown as an alternative. Figures for the 2008-09 academic year will be available in January 2010.

Young[1] undergraduate entrants[2] from Barnsley local authority[3] and Doncaster local authority[3], UK higher education institutions[4], academic years 1998-99 to 2007-08

Academic year	*Barnsley*	*Doncaster*
1998-99	460	830
1999-2000	505	830
2000-01	550	795
2001-02	570	910
2002-03	515	860
2003-04	565	890
2004-05	550	905
2005-06	655	990
2006-07	655	910
2007-08	690	950

[1] Young refers to undergraduates aged under 21.

[2] Covers entrants to both full-time and part-time undergraduate courses.

[3] Local authority is defined by full and valid home postcodes.

[4] Excludes the Open University due to inconsistencies in their coding of entrants over the time series.

Note:

Figures are on a snapshot basis as at 1 December and have been rounded to the nearest five.

Source:

Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA).

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what percentage of *(a)* 18 and *(b)* 19 year olds resident in each local authority area went into higher education in (i) 1997-98 and (ii) 2007-08. [265561]

Mr. Lammy: The number of 18 and 19-year-old entrants to higher education from each local authority is shown in the following table.

It is not possible to identify 18 and 19-year-olds who did not begin a course at a higher education institution in 2007-08. Therefore, it is not possible to calculate what percentage of 18 and 19-year-olds from each local authority went into higher education in 2007-08.

The Higher Education Funding Council for England (HEFCE) published "Young participation in higher education" in January 2005, which is available from the HEFCE website at:

http://www.hefce.ac.uk/pubs/hefce/2005/05_03/

The HEFCE report shows participation rates for young people who entered higher education aged 18 or 19 disaggregated by local education authority (LEA) for the years 1997 to 2000.

At national level, the higher education initial participation rate (HEIPR) covers English-domiciled 17 to 30-year-old first-time entrants to higher education courses, at UK higher education institutions and English, Scottish and Welsh further education colleges, who remain on their course for at least six months. The latest available figure is 39.8 per cent. in 2006/07. For 18 and 19-year-olds, the figures are 20.2 per cent. and 8.6 per cent. respectively.

18 and 19-year-old entrants[1] to higher education by local authority[2], UK higher education institutions[3], academic years 1997/98 and 2007/08

	1997/98		*2007/08*	
Local authority	*18-year-old entrants*	*19-year-old entrants*	*18-year-old entrants*	*19-year-old entrants*
City of London	5	5	10	10
Camden	230	300	395	390
Greenwich	325	210	560	385
Hackney	210	195	455	405
Hammersmith and Fulham	185	210	315	315
Islington	170	195	380	310
Kensington and Chelsea	215	290	340	300
Lambeth	295	280	580	510
Lewisham	340	255	680	455
Southwark	250	240	580	510
Tower Hamlets	220	150	545	335
Wandsworth	325	360	540	540
Westminster	255	240	375	355
Barking and Dagenham	160	85	380	220
Barnet	945	670	1,325	930
Bexley	405	200	720	295
Brent	680	470	1,050	680
Bromley	810	375	1,105	480
Croydon	765	425	1,270	665
Ealing	700	525	1,080	770
Enfield	690	380	1,070	575
Haringey	300	300	585	580
Harrow	795	480	1,230	680
Havering	425	155	680	240
Hillingdon	535	235	850	425
Hounslow	475	380	745	490
Kingston upon Thames	330	195	575	355
Merton	350	255	590	375
Newham	380	330	975	590

18 and 19-year-old entrants[illegible] to higher education by local authority[2], UK higher education institutions[3], academic years 1997/98 and 2007/08

Local authority	*1997/98*		*2007/08*	
	18-year-old entrants	*19-year-old entrants*	*18-year-old entrants*	*19-year-old entrants*
Redbridge	740	365	1,240	590
Richmond upon Thames	435	350	620	515
Sutton	410	175	615	310
Waltham Forest	420	255	740	430
Birmingham	1,940	1,235	2,700	1,600
Coventry	660	315	775	405
Dudley	670	250	850	295
Sandwell	465	240	675	325
Solihull	640	235	845	335
Walsall	530	200	670	295
Wolverhampton	625	250	740	330
Knowsley	170	60	385	170
Liverpool	620	225	1,105	510
St. Helens	435	130	475	145
Sefton	785	325	985	370
Wirral	880	250	1,140	445
Bolton	735	280	785	305
Bury	460	190	665	245
Manchester	510	330	810	585
Oldham	440	170	665	240
Rochdale	485	175	590	260
Salford	295	135	415	205
Stockport	755	280	960	385
Tameside	385	175	550	165
Trafford	695	240	900	380
Wigan	585	190	705	240
Barnsley	300	115	445	160
Doncaster	530	145	660	190
Rotherham	490	155	620	205
Sheffield	800	405	1,145	660
Bradford	950	460	1,300	585
Calderdale	425	175	535	250
Kirklees	995	430	1,235	490
Leeds	1,320	580	1,725	825
Wakefield	605	175	705	270
Gateshead	420	130	495	175
Newcastle upon Tyne	465	200	585	340
North Tyneside	460	165	520	210
South Tyneside	310	120	320	130
Sunderland	565	170	625	285
Isles Of Scilly	5	5	5	5
Bath and North East Somerset	375	225	430	380
Bristol, City of	535	435	550	540
North Somerset	535	260	535	350
South Gloucestershire	590	255	710	305
Hartlepool	160	60	230	110
Middlesbrough	270	135	410	210
Redcar and Cleveland	355	135	390	165
Stockton-on-Tees	465	210	620	250
Kingston upon Hull, City of	260	135	390	200
East Riding of Yorkshire	905	340	1,015	395
North East Lincolnshire	305	105	295	140
North Lincolnshire	400	120	425	170
North Yorkshire	1,580	630	1,885	875
York	375	205	465	215
Bedfordshire	1,020	440	1,285	575
Luton	355	235	615	300
Buckinghamshire	1,555	885	1,955	1,030
Milton Keynes	465	195	610	340
Derbyshire	1,690	665	2,030	800
Derby	485	235	605	260

18 and 19-year-old entrants[1] to higher education by local authority[2], UK higher education institutions[3], academic years 1997/98 and 2007/08

	1997/98		2007/08	
Local authority	*18-year-old entrants*	*19-year-old entrants*	*18-year-old entrants*	*19-year-old entrants*
Dorset	830	460	985	680
Poole	300	115	380	180
Bournemouth	300	165	325	205
Durham	1,090	350	1,160	445
Darlington	195	85	305	105
East Sussex	940	625	1,050	840
Brighton and Hove	280	265	440	395
Hampshire	3,310	1,450	3,625	2,045
Portsmouth	210	135	300	215
Southampton	305	185	345	290
Leicestershire	1,755	700	2,010	910
Leicester	540	400	845	565
Rutland	115	70	120	90
Staffordshire	1,990	780	2,525	970
Stoke-on-Trent	335	135	470	185
Wiltshire	1,025	565	1,135	785
Swindon	250	115	350	210
Bracknell Forest	235	100	305	155
Windsor and Maidenhead	375	240	495	240
West Berkshire	395	190	435	225
Reading	220	140	285	200
Slough	195	160	375	215
Wokingham	545	200	645	340
Cambridgeshire	1,195	745	1,355	910
Peterborough	315	145	420	185
Cheshire	2,065	700	2,440	1,000
Halton	205	70	305	130
Warrington	445	150	680	245
Devon	1,385	800	1,545	1,295
Plymouth	440	175	510	310
Torbay	235	105	285	125
Essex	2,890	1,205	3,940	1,755
Southend-on-Sea	340	150	435	200
Thurrock	170	95	320	135
Herefordshire	350	220	470	305
Worcestershire	1,390	655	1,670	845
Kent	3,045	1,450	4,010	2,045
Medway	460	175	750	265
Lancashire	2,920	1,135	3,140	1,190
Blackburn and Darwen	295	120	345	145
Blackpool	190	95	195	95
Nottinghamshire	1,675	615	2,015	870
Nottingham	275	185	445	280
Shropshire	790	355	835	475
Telford and Wrekin	335	135	405	170
Cornwall	1,195	535	1,195	780
Cumbria	1,060	480	1,320	540
Gloucestershire	1,530	695	1,540	1,020
Hertfordshire	2,885	1,310	3,815	1,765
Isle of Wight	275	160	250	160
Lincolnshire	1,490	530	1,845	715
Norfolk	1,440	730	1,655	1,010
Northamptonshire	1,400	635	1,800	920
Northumberland	930	300	820	370
Oxfordshire	1,390	950	1,585	1,270
Somerset	1,115	655	1,235	900
Suffolk	1,290	665	1,855	1,050
Surrey	3,105	1,615	3,740	2,145
Warwickshire	1,410	615	1,635	735
West Sussex	1,800	960	1,815	1,180
Total England	108,325	52,695	139,485	73,690

18 and 19-year-old entrants[1] to higher education by local authority[2], UK higher education institutions[3], academic years 1997/98 and 2007/08

Local authority	*1997/98*		*2007/08*	
	18-year-old entrants	*19-year-old entrants*	*18-year-old entrants*	*19-year-old entrants*
Isle of Anglesey	185	55	235	65
Gwynedd	305	120	350	145
Conwy	280	115	345	130
Denbighshire	215	90	255	125
Flintshire	355	120	400	175
Wrexham	310	115	275	140
Powys	375	135	415	205
Ceredigion	205	80	245	85
Pembrokeshire	370	175	405	140
Carmarthenshire	550	215	575	235
City and County of Swansea	615	300	675	315
Neath Port Talbot	310	155	380	180
Bridgend	335	140	470	175
The Vale of Glamorgan	430	185	485	210
Rhondda Cynon Taff	595	210	675	260
Merthyr Tydfil	115	40	160	50
Caerphilly	360	120	455	150
Blaenau Gwent	115	45	135	55
Torfaen	255	75	230	[illegible]
Monmouthshire	320	125	360	[illegible]
Newport	295	145	435	175
Cardiff	690	320	945	500
Total Wales	7,590	3,070	8,910	3,770
Total England and Wales	115,915	55,765	148,395	77,455
Belfast	485	245	780	415
Western	655	290	1,340	635
North Eastern	920	370	1,640	700
South Eastern	980	415	1,470	680
Southern	755	405	1,560	745
Total Northern Ireland	3,800	1,725	6,790	3,170
Channel Islands	30	20	665	250
Aberdeen City	350	105	405	155
Aberdeenshire	550	140	590	190
Angus	245	60	215	85
Argyll and Bute	190	60	190	60
Scottish Borders	240	85	225	100
Clackmannanshire	85	15	80	30
West Dunbartonshire	105	45	115	55
Dumfries and Galloway	280	70	265	85
Dundee City	200	75	220	105
East Ayrshire	175	50	185	55
East Dunbartonshire	355	100	305	85
East Lothian	160	50	195	85
East Renfrewshire	280	65	335	85
City of Edinburgh	755	315	970	415
Falkirk	180	50	165	40
Fife	580	160	560	190
Glasgow City	590	210	745	340
Highland	355	130	520	215
Inverclyde	145	35	150	55
Midlothian	140	35	120	45
Moray	140	45	200	100
North Ayrshire	190	70	210	60
North Lanarkshire	410	120	465	180
Orkney Islands	45	20	65	20
Perth and Kinross	300	85	370	155

18 and 19-year-old entrants[1] to higher education by local authority[2], UK higher education institutions[3], academic years 1997/98 and 2007/08

	1997/98		*2007/08*	
Local authority	*18-year-old entrants*	*19-year-old entrants*	*18-year-old entrants*	*19-year-old entrants*
Renfrewshire	330	70	265	105
Shetland Islands	35	15	75	15
South Ayrshire	275	85	225	75
South Lanarkshire	485	105	585	215
Stirling	200	50	160	45
West Lothian	250	75	225	65
Eilean Siar	65	15	75	25
Total Scotland	8,670	2,615	9,480	3,540
Total UK	128,415	60,125	165,330	84,410
Missing	21,025	17,260	16,360	18,050

[1] Covers undergraduate and postgraduate entrants to full and part-time courses.

[2] Local authority is derived from postcode. Those with missing or invalid postcodes are defined as missing.

[3] Figures exclude the Open university due to inconsistencies in their coding of entrants across the time series.

Note:

Figures are on a snapshot basis and as at 1 December. Figures have been rounded to the nearest five, so components may not sum to totals.

Source:

Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA)

Higher Education: Finance

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what assessment he has made of the effect of the recession on the ability of higher education institutions to raise finance on private markets. [265252]

Mr. Lammy: Financial institutions still see higher education as being a low risk sector and are keen to continue to lend. We will keep the situation under review in changing economic circumstances.

Renewable Energy: Research

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how much funding was allocated for research and development by his Department and its agencies into renewable energy sources in each year for which figures are available. [265444]

Mr. Lammy: The Department for Innovation Universities and Skills (DIUS) provides funding to the Technology Strategy Board and the Research Councils to support research and development. These bodies are each responsible for determining detailed distribution between priorities. The following table shows expenditure on research and development into renewable energy sources:

		£ million
	Research Councils	*TSB[1]*
1997-98	4.41	4.449
1998-99	5.64	3.334
1999-2000	5.08	3.914
2000-01	5.60	3.954
2001-02	6.81	5.217
2002-03	6.53	10.495
2003-04	6.82	11.234
2004-05	7.17	5.673
2005-06	7.65	5.453
2006-07	8.71	4.539
2007-08	15.92	7.530

[1] Responsibility for renewable energy R and D, previously funded by the Department for Trade and Industry, was transferred to the Technology Strategy Board in 2007-08.

In addition, the Research Councils are providing funding of £13.88 million over the period 2004-09 for the UK Energy Research Centre (which undertakes a range of research relating to renewable energy) and energy is included in the work of the Tyndall Centre for Climate Change Research (which has some £15.8 million funding from the Research Councils over 2000-08).

Students: Finance

Mr. Willetts: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what steps he is taking to ensure the Government's policy on public funding for students taking equivalent or lower qualifications takes into account the needs of employers during the recession. [264925]

Mr. Lammy: The ELQ policy fundamentally addresses the perennial need of employers for a greater proportion of the population to acquire higher level skills because it represents a redistribution of funding from those who have already benefited from higher education to first time entrants. The policy also seeks to supply employers with more of the graduates they need most. Students co-funded by employers and those studying for foundation degrees are exempt from the policy and strategically important science, technology, engineering and mathematics subjects still attract institutional funding when studied as an ELQ. To discern whether there is more the policy can do we have instructed HEFCE in their current review of the impact of the ELQ policy that, while they should continue to prioritise first time students, they should seek to assist universities in responding to the economic circumstances if appropriate changes are suggested by the evidence.

Students: Loans

Mr. Willetts: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how many complaints have been made against the Student Loans Company by people on the Repayment of Teachers' Loans Scheme. [265051]

Jim Knight: I have been asked to reply.

The information is as follows:

Year complaints were received	*Number of people on the scheme*	*Number of complaints registered with SLC*
2004	11,200	34
2005	18,600	83
2006	24,100	63
2007	22,500	67
2008	21,700	57
2009	Total not yet available	13

Some of these complaints were about the rules of the scheme (as designed by the Government) and others were about the way the SLC had delivered the required administration service. It is not possible to disaggregate these.

HEALTH

Accident and Emergency Departments

Derek Twigg: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many patients were treated in accident and emergency departments in England and Wales in each month since January 2007. [263629]

Mr. Bradshaw: Information is not available in the format requested, as data on the number of patients attending accident and emergency (A&E) departments are published quarterly via the Department's QMAE dataset, and only cover England.

The following table shows the number of attendances at major A&E departments in England for each quarter for the time period requested.

Attendances at major accident and emergency departments, England, Q4 2006-07 to Q3 2008-09

	Quarter	*Attendances*
2006-07	4	3,292,269
2007-08	1	3,462,893
2007-08	2	3,397,889
2007-08	3	3,305,222
2007-08	4	3,227,550
2008-09	1	3,422,326
2008-09	2	3,363,031
2008-09	3	3,351,365

Source:
Department of Health dataset QMAE

Antidepressants: Children

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many children aged under 16 years were prescribed anti-depressant medication in *(a)* Hemel Hempstead and *(b)* Hertfordshire in each of the last five years. [265793]

Ann Keen: This information is not collected centrally.

Dental Services

Norman Lamb: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent estimate he has made of levels of access to NHS dentistry in England. [265720]

Ann Keen: The number of patients seen by an NHS dentist in the previous 24 months in England, at quarterly intervals, from 31 March 2006 to 30 September 2008 is available in Table D3 of Annex 3 of the 'NHS Dental Statistics, Quarter 2: 30 September 2008' report. This information is also available as a percentage of the population in Table D4 of Annex 3. The information is provided by primary care trust and by strategic health authority.

This report has already been placed in the Library and is also available on the NHS Information Centre website at:

www.ic.nhs.uk/pubs/dentalstats0809q2

Departmental Electricity Generation

Simon Hughes: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what *(a)* capital and *(b)* maintenance expenditure his Department has incurred on standby diesel generators for back-up electricity supply of his Department's estate in each year since March 1997. [266411]

Mr. Bradshaw: The capital and maintenance expenditure the Department has incurred on stand-by diesel generators for back-up electricity supply of the Department's London estate in each year since March 1997 is as follows:

£

	Capital	*Maintenance expenditure*
1996-97	0	1,550.00
1997-98	0	1,627.50
1998-99	0	1,708.88
1999-2000	0	1,794.32
2000-01	0	1,884.04
2001-02	0	1,978.24
2002-03	0	2,077.15
2003-04	0	2,181.01
2004-05	15,000.00	2,769.32
2005-06	0	2,915.08
2006-07	0	3,068.50
2007-08	0	3,230.00
2008-09	0	3,400.00

Health Centres

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what percentage of primary care trusts he expects will have a GP-led health centre open by 1 April 2009. [265547]

Mr. Bradshaw: Based on current primary care trust plans, we expect a third of the 152 general practitioner-led health centres (33 per cent.) will be open by 1 April 2009 with the majority opening by the end of 2009.

Hospitals: Children

Norman Lamb: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for South Cambridgeshire (Mr. Lansley) of 10 March 2009, *Official Report*, column 377W, on hospitals: children, how many children aged *(a)* under 10 years and *(b)* 10 years and over were admitted to hospital with a diagnosis of type 2 diabetes in each year since 1997-98. [265765]

Ann Keen: Data for the number of children admitted to hospital with type 2 diabetes are not available. However, the following table represents the counts of total admissions of children to hospital due to type 2 diabetes (a child may be admitted on more than one occasion).

Count of finished admission episodes where primary diagnosis is non-insulin dependent diabetes mellitus for under 10 years and 10 to 18 years from 1997-98 to 2007-08 in English national health service hospitals and English NHS commissioned activity in the independent sector

	Under 10 years	*10 to 18 years*
1997-98	25	88
1998-99	34	70
1999-2000	36	85
2000-01	32	68
2001-02	45	100
2002-03	32	116
2003-04	34	154
2004-05	39	161
2005-06	40	159
2006-07	32	141
2007-08	29	181

Notes:

Finished admission episodes

A finished admission episode is the first period of inpatient care under one consultant within one healthcare provider. Finished admission episodes are counted against the year in which the admission episode finishes. Admissions do not represent the number of inpatients, as a person may have more than one admission within the year.

Primary diagnosis

The primary diagnosis is the first of up to 20 (14 from 2002-03 to 2006-07 and seven prior to 2002-03) diagnosis fields in the Hospital Episode Statistics (HES) data set and provides the main reason why the patient was admitted to hospital.

Assessing growth through time

HES figures are available from 1989-90 onwards. The quality and coverage of the data have improved over time. These improvements in information submitted by the NHS have been particularly marked in the earlier years and need to be borne in mind when analysing time series. Some of the increase in figures for later years (particularly 2006-07 onwards) may be due to the improvement in the coverage of independent sector activity.

Changes in NHS practice also need to be borne in mind when analysing time series. For example, a number of procedures may now be undertaken in outpatient settings and may no longer be accounted for in the HES data. This may account for any reductions in activity over time.

Ungrossed data

Figures have not been adjusted for shortfalls in the data, i.e. the data are ungrossed.

Source:

Hospital Episode Statistics (HES), The NHS Information Centre for health and social care

Hospitals: Food

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what his policy is on assisting hospital patients to eat at mealtimes; and what his policy is on families being present at patients' mealtimes to encourage patients to eat; [265599]

(2) what system is in place in the NHS to monitor and observe a hospital patient's intake of food at mealtimes. [265600]

Ann Keen: A significant contribution to assisting patients to eat at mealtimes is the Protected Mealtimes Initiative (PMI), which was introduced by NHS Estates in partnership with the Royal College of Nursing in 2004, as part of the Better Hospital Food programme. The initiative is now led by the National Patient Safety Agency (NPSA) which has been working with key stakeholders in the development of a toolkit to assist national health service organisations in the implementation of the '10 Key Characteristics of Good Nutritional Care'. A factsheet relating to Protected Mealtimes was developed and launched in April 2008 and the NPSA will be launching the complete toolkit later this year.

Policy regarding families being present at patients' mealtimes is determined by local NHS organisations. Such organisations often establish action plans aimed at improving access to their meal services. A frequently used element of such plans is the 'red tray scheme', which identifies to ward staff, those patients at risk of poor nutrition.

Infant Mortality

Derek Twigg: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent assessment he has made of the main causes of infant mortality. [263661]

Dawn Primarolo: The most recent assessment of the main causes of infant mortality was set out in the "Review of the Health Inequalities Infant Mortality PSA Target" published in by the Department in 2007. These causes are immaturity related conditions (babies born of less than 37 weeks gestation), congenital anomalies and conditions, and sudden and unexpected deaths in infancy.

A copy of the review has already been placed in the Library.

Miscarriage: Alcoholic Drinks

Norman Lamb: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many alcohol-related miscarriages were recorded in each strategic health authority area in each of the last five years. [265770]

Dawn Primarolo: The following table provides estimates of the number of alcohol-related admissions to hospital for miscarriage. These estimates have been calculated by multiplying the total number of admissions to hospital miscarriages within each age group by the fraction of cases that, according to epidemiological research, can be attributed to alcohol. Additionally, it is important to note that not all miscarriages result in admission to hospital.

Finished alcohol-related admissions of patients for miscarriage 2003-04 to 2007-08

Strategic health authority	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*
North East	443	454	448	457	460
North West	1,290	1,422	1,627	1,506	1,448
Yorkshire and the Humber	1,065	1,161	1,184	1,068	1,158
West Midlands	1,075	1,069	1,108	974	952
East Midlands	809	740	720	647	806
East of England	786	782	820	687	709

Finished alcohol-related admissions of patients for miscarriage 2003-04 to 2007-08

Strategic health authority	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*
South Central	868	1,031	1,032	431	461
South East Coast	—	—	—	474	499
London	1,469	1,573	1,717	1,804	1,606
South West	715	736	797	780	739
Unknown / No fixed abode	242	144	187	272	169
England	8,763	9,112	9,639	9,120	9,086

Notes:

General

Strategic health authorities were reconfigured between 2005-06 and 2006-07. Separate figures for South Central and South East Coast SHAs are only available for the period from 2006-07. A total for the South East is provided for the period up to 2005-06.

Includes activity in English national health service hospitals and English NHS commissioned activity in the independent sector.

Alcohol-related admissions

The number of alcohol-related admissions is based on the methodology developed by the North West Public Health Observatory (NWPHO). Following international best practice, the NWPHO methodology estimates the proportion of cases that are attributable to the consumption of alcohol.

Details of the proportions can be found in the report Jones et al. (2008) Alcohol-attributable fractions for England: Alcohol-attributable mortality and hospital admissions.

Figures for under 16s are excluded because the research on which the attributable fractions are based does not cover under 16s.

Number of episodes in which the patient had an alcohol-related primary or secondary diagnosis

These figures represent the number of episodes where an alcohol-related diagnosis was recorded in any of the 20 (14 from 2002-03 to 2006-07 and seven prior to 2002-03) primary and secondary diagnosis fields in a hospital episode statistics (HES) record. Each episode is only counted once in each count, even if an alcohol-related diagnosis is recorded in more than one diagnosis field of the record.

Ungrossed data

Figures have not been adjusted for shortfalls in data (i.e. the data are ungrossed).

Finished admission episodes

A finished admission episode is the first period of in-patient care under one consultant within one healthcare provider. Finished admission episodes are counted against the year in which the admission episode finishes. Admissions do not represent the number of in-patients, as a person may have more than one admission within the year.

Primary diagnosis

The primary diagnosis is the first of up to 20 (14 from 2002-03 to 2006-07 and seven prior to 2002-03) diagnosis fields in the hospital episode statistics (HES) data set and provides the main reason why the patient was admitted to hospital.

Secondary diagnosis

As well as the primary diagnosis, there are up to 19 (13 from 2002-03 to 2007-08 and six prior to 2002-03) secondary diagnosis fields in hospital episode statistics (HES) that show other diagnoses relevant to the episode of care.

Data quality

HES are compiled from data sent by more than 300 NHS trusts and primary care trusts (PCTs) in England. Data are also received from a number of independent sector organisations for activity commissioned by the English NHS. The NHS Information Centre for health and social care liaises closely with these organisations to encourage submission of complete and valid data and seeks to minimise inaccuracies and the effect of missing and invalid data via HES processes. While this brings about improvement over time, some shortcomings remain.

Assessing growth through time

HES figures are available from 1989-90 onwards. The quality and coverage of the data have improved over time. These improvements in information submitted by the NHS have been particularly marked in the earlier years and need to be borne in mind when analysing time series.

Some of the increase in figures for later years (particularly 2006-07 onwards) may be due to the improvement in the coverage of independent sector activity.

Changes in NHS practice also need to be borne in mind when analysing time series. For example, a number of procedures may now be undertaken in out-patient settings and may no longer be accounted for in the HES data. This may account for any reductions in activity over time.

Assignment of episodes to years

Years are assigned by the end of the first period of care in a patient's hospital stay.

Source:

Hospital episode statistics (HES), The NHS Information Centre for health and social care

NHS Foundation Trusts

Frank Dobson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what criteria Monitor uses to assess applications for foundation status by NHS hospital trusts. [266281]

Mr. Bradshaw: We are informed by the chairman of Monitor (the statutory name of which is the independent regulator of NHS foundation trusts) that a detailed description of the assessment process for NHS foundation trust (NHS FT) applicants is set out in the document 'Applying for NHS Foundation Trust Status—Guide for Applicants' (Monitor and the Department of Health, November 2008). A copy of this document has been placed in the Library and is also available from Monitor's website:

www.monitor-nhsft.gov.uk/home/becoming-nhs-foundation-trust

Monitor has three main criteria which it applies to all applicants for NHS FT status. The applicant trust must be:

Legally constituted;

Well governed; and

Financially viable.

Monitor's intensive assessment process takes approximately three months. Trusts must submit a wide range of information as evidence to support each category. Monitor reviews all the evidence submitted and conducts interviews with key stakeholders including primary care trusts, strategic health authorities, and the Healthcare Commission. Monitor probes the boards of each applicant trust to examine their capability to operate autonomously by questioning different aspects of their application, examples of which include:

Does the board have arrangements in place for monitoring and continually improving the quality of healthcare provided to its patients?

How is the board assured that it has action plans in place to meet existing targets and national core standards?

Are there clear structures and comprehensive procedures in place for the effective working of the NHS FT board?

Is the board confident that the senior management has the capability to and experience necessary to deliver the strategy set out in its business plan?

NHS: Counselling

Tim Farron: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what professional counselling his Department provides for NHS employees suffering from psychological illness; [266353]

(2) how many members of staff from the NHS were absent from work for at least *(a)* 30, *(b)* 50 and *(c)* 99 days as a result of psychological illness in each of the last five years; [266357]

(3) how many staff have left the NHS as a result of psychological illness in each of the last five years. [266358]

Ann Keen: National health service employees are employed by individual NHS bodies such as NHS trusts and NHS foundation trusts. These autonomous employers have a legal responsibility for ensuring the health and well-being of their staff. This includes providing any appropriate professional counselling or other occupational health support to employees with psychological or mental health problems.

Specific guidance on this was issued to the service by NHS Employers (part of the NHS Confederation), in line with the Department's policy, in "The healthy workplaces handbook in 2007".

The broad responsibility is underscored within the recently published NHS Constitution which includes a pledge to staff that "The NHS commits to provide support and opportunities for staff to maintain their health, well-being and safety".

On the numbers of staff absent on the grounds of psychological illness and leaving the NHS as a result of psychological illness, the information requested is not available centrally. However, the number of people granted ill-health retirement from the NHS in the last five years is shown in the following table together with the numbers of acceptances for ill-health retirement on psychiatric grounds.

Year ending 31 March	*Total number of ill health retirements*	*Number of acceptances for ill health retirement on psychiatric grounds*
2003	3,462	657
2004	3,374	558
2005	2,954	408
2006	2,590	379
2007	2,422	391
2008	2,201	249

Source:
NHS Pensions

NHS: Manpower

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many full-time equivalent *(a)* physiotherapists and *(b)* speech therapists have been working in (i) the NHS in each year since 1997 and (ii) each NHS organisation in the last three years. [265542]

Ann Keen: The number of physiotherapists and speech therapists employed in the national health service in the years requested has been placed in the Library.

NHS: Working Hours

Norman Lamb: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) how much has been allocated by his Department to ensure compliance with the European Working Time Directive in the NHS; [265761]

(2) what guidelines his Department has provided to primary care trusts on the use of funding for compliance with the European Working Time Directive; [265762]

(3) how much money has been allocated by his Department to each primary care trust to aid compliance with the European Working Time Directive. [265763]

Ann Keen: The Department is making a total of £310 million available by 2009-10 to support the European Working Time Directive implementation in recurrent primary care trust (PCT) allocations.

In 2008-09 £110 million was included in the quantum allocation funding that resulted in all PCTs receiving revenue growth of 5.5 per cent. This is recurrent in PCT baselines going into 2009-10.

In 2009-10, a further £2 million has been included in PCT revenue allocations that continue to grow by an average of 5.5 per cent. This is recurrent funding. Of this we expect £150 million to flow through tariff income to trusts as we have incorporated this sum into 2009-10 uplift applied to all tariff prices.

The remaining £50 million in PCT allocations will be targeted to trusts according to strategic health authority (SHA) direction and is intended to support trained doctor solutions particularly in paediatrics and obstetrics services.

SHAs are making clear to the boards of their PCTs and relevant trusts that £310 million has been made available recurrently and how it should be moved around the system in 2009-10.

The funding should be targeted to services only where they meet one or more of the following conditions:

The services are planning to be compliant by 1 August 2009;

The services have sustainable plan to meet compliance after 1 August 2009 and it has been agreed that their special difficulties warrant inclusion in the Working Time regulation schedule; and

The services are already compliant but require ongoing support for this to continue.

BUSINESS, ENTERPRISE AND REGULATORY REFORM

Beijing

Mr. Heathcoat-Amory: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many visits were made by staff of his Department to Beijing in the financial year 2007-08. [264565]

Mr. McFadden: The Department made 12 visits to Beijing in the financial year 2007-08.

All travel is undertaken in accordance with the Civil Service code and Civil Service Management Code. In BERR the criteria for booking travel is value for money based on cost and convenience.

Corporate Governance Unit

Mr. Hands: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform when his predecessor Department's Corporate Governance Unit was *(a)* established and *(b)* disbanded; what the remit of the Unit was; what the cost to the public purse was of the Unit in each year of its operation; and what the job title was of each member of staff of the Unit. [265822]

Mr. McFadden: This Department's Corporate Law and Governance Directorate, which deals with corporate governance issues, has not been disbanded.

Departmental Billing

Mr. Oaten: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what percentage of invoices from his Department's suppliers have been paid using a Government procurement card in each of the last six months. [265782]

Mr. McFadden *[holding answer 23 March 2009]*: Information on the number of invoices paid by a Government Procurement Card can be obtained only at disproportionate cost. However, over the last six months (September 2008 to February 2009) the percentages of Government Procurement Card payments (including both invoices and at the point-of-sale) as a proportion of the total number of transactions for all payment methods, is as follows:

	Total number of transactions	*Number paid by GPC*	*Percentage*
September 2008	3,489	883	25.3
October 2008	5,121	1,165	22.7
November 2008	3,887	994	25.6
December 2008	3,478	84	24.2
January 2009	3,628	997	27.5
February 2009	3,468	1,076	31.0

Departmental Rail Travel

Mr. Hurd: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what guidance his Department issues on whether staff may claim for first class rail travel if there are no seats available in standard class. [262033]

Mr. McFadden: BERR encourages staff to make use of cheaper types of tickets wherever possible. No matter what class of travel is used, staff travelling on official business must take advantage of any cheap facilities which maybe available (e.g. special offers, restricted tickets) wherever practical.

The rail booking system used by BERR pre-books seats if they are available for the journeys specified.

If the traveller does not have a pre-booked seat, and no seats in standard class are available (except on suburban lines), then the traveller may transfer to a first class carriage.

All travel is undertaken in accordance with the Civil Service Management code and the Ministerial Code.

Departmental Visits Abroad

Anne Main: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform (1) which hotels the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform stayed in during the World Economic Forum between 28 January and 1 February 2009; and at what cost; [260561]

(2) which hotel the Minister for Small Business and Competitiveness stayed in during the World Economic Forum between 28 January and 1 February 2009; and at what cost. [260563]

Mr. McFadden: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave to the hon. Member for Cotswold (Mr. Clifton-Brown) on 4 March 2009, *Official Report*, column 1701W.

David Simpson: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how much expenditure was incurred in respect of overseas visits which *(a)* he, *(b)* other Ministers in his Department and *(c)* his Department's senior officials undertook in 2008. [262150]

Mr. McFadden: Since 1999, the Government have published a list of all overseas travel by Cabinet Ministers costing over £500. Information for the financial year 2007-08 was published on 22 July 2008, *Official Report*, column 102WS, and for the first time included details of overseas visits undertaken by all Ministers. All travel by Ministers is undertaken in accordance with the Ministerial Code.

Details for the 2008-09 period including details for the period 1 April to 31 December 2008 will be published as soon as possible after the end of the financial year.

The total amount of expenditure incurred in respect of overseas visits by BERR senior officials for the period January 2008 to December 2008 was £534,357; this figure includes air, rail and hotel accommodation.

All travel is undertaken in accordance with the Civil Service Management Code. In BERR the criteria for booking travel is value for money based on cost and convenience.

Departmental Written Questions

Mr. Vara: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform on how many occasions in the last 12 months Ministers in his Department have used their discretion to rule that a parliamentary question for written answer should be answered because it would be in the public interest to do so, even though to do so would exceed the disproportionate cost threshold of £700. [249148]

Mr. McFadden: Information relating to Ministers' consideration of parliamentary questions is not held in the format requested. As a general principle, the Department aims to provide as much information as possible when answering written questions and would consider providing an answer, even were it to exceed the disproportionate cost threshold, where Ministers consider it to be in the public interest.

In a ministerial written statement on 8 December 2008, *Official Report*, column 24WS, the Exchequer Secretary to the Treasury informed the House that the disproportionate cost threshold increased to £750 with effect from 3 December 2008.

Fire Services: Working Hours

Mr. Carmichael: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what recent assessment he has made of the potential effect on levels of fire cover provided by retained fire fighters of the provisions of the EU Working Time Directive in each fire service region in Scotland; and if he will make a statement. [265519]

Mr. McFadden: The UK Government recognise that losing the individual's right to opt-out of the 48 hour working week, as set by the Working Time Directive, would have a detrimental effect on the hours which firefighters working the Retained Duty System could be available for duty, especially the substantial numbers who work full time for their primary employer. Many other workers also use this important flexibility and so we are firmly of the view that this right should remain. We will continue to insist on this point throughout the process of conciliation with the European Parliament on the revision of the directive.

I am aware of the widespread concern on this issue among retained firefighters, and both from this Department and the Department for Communities and Local Government have worked very closely with the Retained Firefighters' Union and will continue to keep them informed throughout the negotiations.

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what recent discussions he has had with the European Commission on the effects of the individual opt-out from the European Working Time Directive on the working practices of *(a)* junior hospital doctors and *(b)* part-time firemen; and if he will make a statement. [265740]

Mr. McFadden: The UK Government recognise the importance of the individual's right to opt-out of the 48 hour working week as set by the Working Time Directive. It is a right that many workers choose to exercise and an essential part of the UK's labour market flexibility. We remain firmly of the view that workers should be able to work longer hours should they choose to do so and so, through Council, are pressing this point during the formal conciliation discussions with the European Parliament.

I am aware of the widespread concern on this issue among retained firefighters, and officials both from this Department and the Department for Communities and Local Government have worked very closely with the Retained Firefighters' Union and will continue to keep them informed throughout the negotiations.

The individual opt out is pertinent to the NHS workforce and we continue to work closely with the Department of Health and will continue to keep them informed also.

Insolvency: Complaints

Mr. Austin Mitchell: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform if he will appoint an independent ombudsman to investigate complaints against insolvency practitioners. [263052]

Mr. McFadden: There are no legislative powers available to enable my noble Friend, the Secretary of State to appoint someone such as an ombudsman, to review the decisions of a recognised professional body (RPB) with respect to a particular complaint against an insolvency practitioner. The Secretary of State is satisfied that the RPBs have the proper procedures in place to ensure that only fit and proper persons who meet the requirements for authorisation are granted a licence to act as an insolvency practitioner. The Secretary of State is also assured that the RPBs have procedures in place to ensure that complaints against their members are investigated properly; all of the RPBs have review processes.

Members: Correspondence

Mr. Gregory Campbell: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform when the Secretary of State plans to reply to the letter sent by the hon. Member for East Londonderry on 24 October 2008, reference number JH/102550. [263623]

Mr. McFadden *[holding answer 13 March 2009]:* I responded to the hon. Member on 11 March.

Mr. Burns: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform when he will respond to the letter from the hon. Member for West Chelmsford of 19 December 2008 concerning a constituent, Mr. Paul Atkinson of Chelmsford. [265427]

Mr. McFadden *[holding answer 20 March 2009]:* I responded to the hon. Member on 13 March.

Minimum Wage

Paddy Tipping: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what estimate he has made of the number of people receiving a higher take home pay as a result of national minimum wage legislation in *(a)* Nottinghamshire, *(b)* the East Midlands and *(c)* nationally. [265974]

Mr. McFadden: It is difficult to isolate the effect of the NMW on take home pay as take home pay is affected by hours worked and other sources of income such as tax credits and taxes. However, evidence suggests that since its introduction the NMW is affecting more people and the hourly wage is rising faster than average earnings and prices benefiting the lowest paid in the economy. The adult NMW has risen by around 59 per cent. since its introduction in 1999 from £3.60 to £5.73 per hour. The rise in the NMW has been greater than average earnings (around 46 per cent.) and retail price inflation (around 32 per cent. over the same period (April 1999 to October 2008).

Evidence from the Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings (ASHE) shows that a growing number of people are affected by the National Minimum Wage (NMW). BERR estimates that around 1.1 million people in the UK were covered by the October 2008 uprating of the NMW.

Information below Government office region is not readily available from the ASHE dataset. However, using spring 2008 ASHE data we estimate that around 93,000 employees were covered in East Midlands by the latest October 2008 NMW upratings.

Moscow

Mr. Heathcoat-Amory: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many visits were made by staff of his Department to Moscow in the financial year 2007-08. [264563]

Mr. McFadden: The Department made 33 visits to Moscow in the financial year 2007-08.

All travel is untaken in accordance with the Civil Service Code and Civil Service Management Code. In BERR the criteria for booking travel is value for money based on cost and convenience.

Performing Arts

John Mason: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform whether his Department has engaged any *(a)* actors, *(b)* musicians and *(c)* other performers to support its initiatives over the last five years. [264060]

Mr. McFadden: Yes.

Post Offices

Lorely Burt: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what recent representations have been made to his Department on the creation of a Post Bank. [265590]

Mr. McFadden: In addition to representations from hon. Members, I have recently received representations from the "Post Bank Coalition" and the National Federation of Sub-Postmasters about the creation of a Post Bank.

Lorely Burt: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform pursuant to the Statement of 16 December 2008, *Official Report*, columns 964-66, on Royal Mail, what recent discussions the Secretary of State has had with ministerial colleagues on providing more services through the Post Office network. [265601]

Mr. McFadden: My right hon. and noble Friend the Secretary of State recently chaired an interdepartmental ministerial meeting to examine potential new business opportunities for the Post Office across Government.

Postal Services

Mr. Gordon Prentice: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform which organisations for which his Department has responsibility and oversight contract with postal service providers other than the Royal Mail; and if he will make a statement. [259876]

Mr. McFadden: The following tables include the details of the Regional Development Agencies (RDAs) postal service providers other than Royal Mail.

Advantage West Midlands

Postal Provider	*Type of Service*
TNT	Special Delivery

East of England Development Agency

Postal Provider	*Type of Service*
AC Couriers	Special Delivery
Grabbit and Run Couriers Ltd	Special Delivery
Hummingbird Express/Earlybird	Special Delivery
JAG Express	Special Delivery
Mr J's Cycle Messenger Service	Special Delivery
Quicksilver Messenger Service	Special Delivery
Team C Couriers	Special Delivery
TNT	Special Delivery

East Midlands Development Agency

Postal Provider	*Type of Service*
Pedal Express	Special Delivery
DHL	Special Delivery

London Development Agency

Postal Provider	*Type of Service*
Courier Systems	Special Delivery

North West Development Agency

Postal Provider	*Type of Service*
Reflex Couriers	Special Delivery

One North East

Postal Provider	*Type of Service*
Fast Way Couriers	Special Delivery
Challenge Couriers	Special Delivery
SJ Logistics	Special Delivery
TNT	Special Delivery
DHL	Special Delivery

South East Development Agency

Postal Provider	*Type of Service*
CCL Express Ltd	Special Delivery
Dash Couriers	Special Delivery
Direct Mail Works	Special Delivery
Federal Express	Special Delivery
Golden Arrow Couriers	Special Delivery
Owen Marine Marketing	Special Delivery
Parcelforce	Special Delivery
Pitney Bowes Ltd UK Mailing	Special Delivery
Pitney Bowes Plc	Special Delivery
PODs Ltd	Special Delivery

South West England Regional Development Agency

Postal Provider	*Type of Service*
DHL Express UK Ltd	Special Delivery
DHL International UK Ltd	Special Delivery
MPH Transport Solutions	Special Delivery
Parcelforce	Special Delivery
Priority Express	Special Delivery
TNT	Special Delivery

Yorkshire Forward

Postal Provider	*Type of Service*
Go Getters Cycle Couriers	Special Delivery
Mailbox	Special Delivery

Companies House has a contract with DX for mail collection and delivery both in Cardiff and in Edinburgh.

The Insolvency Service has a contract with Parcelforce.

The Export Credits Guarantee Department (ECGD) do not have any contracts with any postal service providers.

The Department does not hold centrally the information relating to our other non-departmental public bodies (NDPBs) and this could be provided only at disproportionate costs.

Regional Development Agencies: Finance

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how much each regional development agency allocated to regeneration programmes in the last year for which figures are available. [257545]

Mr. McFadden: The table shows RDAs' expenditure on regeneration programmes in 2007-08.

RDA	*Regeneration programme spend in 2007-08 (£ million)*
Advantage West Midlands	124
East of England Development Agency	54
East Midlands Development Agency	92
London Development Agency	[1]529
Northwest Regional Development Agency	177
South East England Development Agency	65
South West of England Regional Development Agency	62
One NorthEast	100
Yorkshire Forward	109

[1] This figure is inclusive of the Olympic land team's budget for regeneration programmes in 2007-08.

Royal Mail: Reorganisation

Jon Cruddas: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what recent estimate he has made of *(a)* staff time in hours expended and *(b)* expenditure incurred by Royal Mail on preparations for the proposed sale of parts of its operations. [264320]

Mr. McFadden: Any staff time expended or expenditure incurred by Royal Mail is a matter for the company's management and I have asked Adam Crozier to respond directly to my hon. Friend on this.

I will place a copy of his reply in the Libraries of the House.

Jon Cruddas: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform when he expects to announce his decision on which parts of Royal Mail are to be offered for sale; and whether he plans to include information on the *(a)* monetary value and *(b)* profitability of each section to be offered for sale in such an announcement. [264321]

Mr. McFadden: The Government are looking for a strategic partner for Royal Mail Group with the expectation that this will involve a sale of shares in the region of 30 per cent. at the Royal Mail Group Ltd. level.

I will announce details of any partnership agreement when this is finalised with the partner. We have not set a rigid timetable for this negotiation. Any announcement will include details of any consideration to be received in respect of the partnership arrangement.

The profitability of each of Royal Mail's main business units will be available in the company's published annual report and accounts for 2008-09.

Trade Unions

Mr. Drew: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform if he will take steps to encourage people to join trade unions. [263530]

Mr. McFadden: The Government value the role which trade unions can play at the workplace, but it sees recruitment as a matter for trade unions themselves to organise.

Union Modernisation Fund

Mr. Maude: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how much had been spent from the Union Modernisation Fund on grants to each trade union at the latest date for which figures are available; and how much of the available funding had not been allocated. [263378]

Mr. McFadden *[holding answer 13 March 2009]:* Projects under rounds 1 and 2 of the Union Modernisation Fund have been allocated from a commitment of £6,393,024. Round 3 of the UMF, which is open to applications until 5 June, has an indicative budget of £3 million, the allocations will be determined once the round has closed and the process to assess the bids has taken place and awards have been made to successful bids.

The following tables give the amounts accrued for each trade union for rounds 1 and 2.

Round 1

Union	*£*
Accord, Connect, Musicians Union	29,150.00
Amicus	147,000.00
ASLEF	71,477.72
Bakers, Food and Allied Workers Union	33,405.00
Bakers, Food and Allied Workers Union	17,241.06
British Dental Association	40,122.00
Ceramic and Allied Trades Union	26,783.00
Communication Workers Union	183,500.00
Community	87,085.39
Community and District Nursing Association	14,544.02
Community and Youth Workers Union	16,915.96
Connect	65,038.00
Equity	43,500.00
General Federation of Trade Unions	79,039.77

Round 1

Union	£
GMB	206,380.34
Lloyds TSB Group Union	22,322.60
National Union of Journalists	55,000.00
National Union of Rail, Maritime and Transport Workers	193,737.50
National Union of Teachers	63,954.25
Nationwide Group Staff Union	5,875.00
Portman Group Staff Association	23,389.00
Prospect	187,735.00
Retained Firefighters Union	60,000.00
Royal College of Midwives	163,330.00
Society of Chiropodists and Podiatrists	52,399.00
Trades Union Congress	62,695.00
Transport and General Workers Union	162,125.00
Transport and General Workers Union	161,757.00
Transport and General Workers Union	48,150.00
Transport Salaried Staffs' Association	123,636.00
Union of Finance Staff	48,860.00
United Road Transport Union	84,645.00
USDAW	203,291.27
Wales TUC	197,763.08
WBBS Staff Union	4,546.80
Total	2,986,473.76

Round 2

Union	£
Accord	114,762.00
Amicus the union	89,309.18
Association of Professionals in Education and Children's Trusts (Aspect)	9,185.60
Association of Teachers and Lecturers (ATL)	52,197.10
Bakers, Food and Allied Workers Union (BFAWU)	43,742.10
Broadcasting Entertainment Cinematograph and Theatre Union (BECTU)	140,000.00
Chartered Society of Physiotherapy	43,005.00
Communication Workers Union	30,000.00
Communication Workers Union	35,927.97
Community	33,322.47
Equity	50,794.01
First Division Association (FDA)	97,717.00
General Federation of Trade Unions (GFTU)	93,916.60
General Federation of Trade Unions (GFTU)	67,149.35
GMB—Britain's General Union	109,992.80
Musicians' Union	44,214.00
National Association of Schoolmasters, Union of Women Teachers (NASUWT)	0.00
National Union of Teachers	42,409.08
Nautilus UK	36,046.64
Prospect	82,331.00
Public and Commercial Services Union (PCS)	26,293.55
Public and Commercial Services Union (PCS)	53,323.32
Trades Union Congress (TUC)	102,020.20
Trades Union Congress (TUC)	89,602.00
Transport and General Workers Union (T&G)	70,956.00
Union of Construction Allied Trades and Technicians (UCATT)	52,957.50
Union of Shop, Distributive and Allied Workers	95,154.00
Unison	77,982.25
Unison	56,339.00
Unison	169,306.25
Transport Salaried Staffs' Association	30,999.48
Total	£2,049,035.45

CHILDREN, SCHOOLS AND FAMILIES

Academies: Sponsorship

Paul Holmes: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families who the sponsor is of each academy which has opened in England; how much each sponsor was scheduled to contribute; how much has been received from each *(a)* in cash and *(b)* in kind; how much is still expected from each and over what period; whether his Department has written off any expected financial contribution from a sponsor; and if he will make a statement. [263138]

Jim Knight: Two tables have been placed in the Libraries and show the sponsorship arrangements for each of the academies open in March 2009. The first, headed "Traditional Procurement Academies" shows for each academy where sponsorship is a contribution to capital costs, the total pledged, the amount for which the Department has evidence of receipt, and the amount still expected. In some cases further sponsorship payments may have already been received by the Academy Trust but not yet reported to the Department. The second table, headed "Endowment Sponsorship Academies" shows for each academy where sponsorship is in the form of contributions to an endowment fund, the amounts pledged, the amounts reported so far to the Department as received and the amount still expected. As with the first category, there may be cases where further sponsorship has already been received by the Academy Trust but not yet reported to the Department.

Sponsorship in kind is additional to formal sponsorship requirements, the Department does not therefore keep records of it.

In the case of "Traditional Procurement Academies" the timing of the receipt of cash sponsorship varies from academy to academy and is agreed as part of the Funding agreement between the Department and the academy.

In the case of the "Endowment Model", receipts commence only after the academy has opened, and usually over a period of five years.

Sponsors have withdrawn from projects in a handful of cases, which has led to reduced sponsorship amounts. There have also been a small number of requests for deferment of sponsor contributions, which have been considered on a case by case basis.

Children: Cancer

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) what steps he is taking to increase awareness of childhood cancer among teachers in schools and education authorities; and if he will make a statement; [265675]

(2) what guidance is made available for schools to help them support children who have been diagnosed with cancer. [265676]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: There is no legal duty on schools or their staff to support a pupil with medical needs or to administer or supervise the taking of medicines. However, schools are encouraged to develop policies on managing medicines and supporting pupils with medical needs.

The Department has issued guidance to schools to help them support their pupils. Our guidance to schools, 'Managing Medicines in Schools and Early Years Settings', issued jointly with the Department of Health in 2005, gives advice to schools on how they can support pupils with medical needs. It also encourages schools to draw up, in consultation with parents and medical professionals, individual Health Care Plans for children with medical needs. We produced sister guidance in the same year, entitled 'Including me: managing complex health needs in schools and early years settings'.

In addition, since September 2007, schools have a duty to promote the well-being of all pupils, including those with long term medical conditions. This duty defines well-being as the five outcomes of the Every Child Matters, including being healthy and staying safe.

The Child Health Strategy, Better Health: Brighter Futures, published on 12 February, announced that we will be revising the guidance to schools on managing medicines which will include clear statements of expectations of those involved in supporting pupils with medical conditions, such as schools and PCTs. This work will be done in consultation with expert organisations and will be supported with an awareness raising campaign.

Children: Day Care

Mr. Kemp: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many childcare places there were in Houghton and Washington East constituency in *(a)* 1997 and *(b)* 2008. [265027]

Beverley Hughes: The information requested is not available by parliamentary constituency. The following tables show the number of child care places in Sunderland local authority for 1997 and 2008.

Table 1: Number[1,2,3] of day care places for children under eight years of age by type of provider, Sunderland local authority area, position at 31 March 1997

Type of provider	*Number*
Day nurseries	700
Playgroups and pre-schools	500
Childminders	n/a
Out of school clubs	300
Holiday schemes	200
Total	[4]1,700

n/a = not available

[1] Figures have been rounded to the nearest 10 if under 100, and to the nearest 100 if over 100.

[2] Data Source: Children's Day Care Facilities Survey.

[3] Figures may not add up to total due to rounding.

[4] Figure excludes childminders.

Table 2: Number[1,2,3] of registered child care places for children under eight years of age by type of care, Sunderland local authority area, position at 31 March 2008

Type of care	*Number*
Full day care	2,800
Sessional day care	100
Childminders	1,300
Out of school day care	1,700
Crèche day care	300
Total	6,200

[1] Figures have been rounded to the nearest 10 if under 100, and to the nearest 100 if over 100.

[2] Data Source: Ofsted.

[3] Figures may not add up to total due to rounding.

Since 2003 Ofsted has been responsible for the registration and inspection of child care providers. Ofsted has produced figures on the numbers of registered child care providers and places on a quarterly basis from March 2003. Its latest figures were published in their report 'Registered Childcare Providers and Places, August 2008', which is available on its website

www.Ofsted.gov.uk/

Children: Protection

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families when he expects the feasibility study on a revised integrated children's system to be completed. [264380]

Beverley Hughes: Lord Laming has recommended that the Department should complete such a study within six months of his progress report this month on the protection of children in England. The Government have accepted this recommendation, and we expect the feasibility study to be completed by the date Lord Laming has set. Our approach to the study will be informed by the advice of the Social Work Taskforce, which is due to report their view on the Integrated Children's System at the end of April.

Children: Protection

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many *(a)* child assessment, *(b)* care, *(c)* supervision and *(d)* emergency protection orders have been issued in each local authority area in each of the last five years. [265240]

Bridget Prentice: I have been asked to reply.

Information at local authority level can be provided only at disproportionate cost. However, information is available for HM Courts Service (HMCS) administrative areas.

These figures relate to the number of orders made counted on a 'per child' basis, meaning that where an order affects two children it will be counted twice. They cover all tiers of the family court system in England and Wales (High Court, county courts and family proceedings courts (FPCs)).

Between 2004 and 2006, activity in the FPCs was reported on manual statistical returns. The figures were subject to an adjustment to take account of non-response to this data collection exercise. Figures for these years should be treated as estimates for this reason.

The England and Wales totals may differ from those previously published in the annual "Judicial and Court Statistics" command paper due to updates made within the FamilyMan system used in the courts since publication.

The number of child assessment orders are not shown at HMCS area level due to the very small numbers made each year. Annual totals for England and Wales are shown in the following table:

	Number of orders
2004	7
2005	25
2006	16
2007	14
2008	12

Figures for care orders, supervision orders and emergency protection orders are shown in the following tables:

Number of care orders made annually by HMCS area, 2004-08

Area	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*
Avon and Somerset	168	186	162	172	220
Bedfordshire, Essex and Herts	404	403	379	336	308
Birmingham, Coventry, Solihull and Warwickshire	327	326	358	298	290
Black Country, Staffordshire and West Mercia	445	525	484	526	415
Cambridgeshire, Norfolk and Suffolk	282	305	319	318	310
Cheshire and Merseyside	353	480	458	521	431
Cleveland, Durham and Northumbria	527	394	358	452	710
Cumbria and Lancashire	399	454	311	408	280
Derbyshire and Nottinghamshire	203	210	214	204	259
Devon and Cornwall	243	188	158	200	204
Dorset, Gloucestershire and Wiltshire	158	149	224	106	123
Greater Manchester	657	570	651	706	553
Hampshire and Isle of Wight	145	154	147	172	181
Humber and South Yorkshire	312	426	441	431	355
Kent	209	186	208	173	154
Lincolnshire, Leicestershire and Rutland and Northamptonshire	157	164	175	184	199
London	896	880	936	938	775
Mid and West Wales	121	127	93	162	110
North and West Yorkshire	554	438	456	577	544
North Wales	110	86	81	139	168
South East Wales	389	347	318	296	254
Surrey and Sussex	287	266	261	273	227
Thames Valley	245	163	167	159	140
England and Wales	7,591	7,427	7,359	7,751	7,210

Number of supervision orders made annually by HMCS area, 2004-08

Area	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*
Avon and Somerset	147	97	98	94	171
Bedfordshire, Essex and Herts	156	135	167	137	190
Birmingham, Coventry, Solihull and Warwickshire	156	137	172	130	138
Black Country, Staffordshire and West Mercia	150	167	107	85	131
Cambridgeshire, Norfolk and Suffolk	117	89	167	149	154
Cheshire and Merseyside	63	101	85	103	152
Cleveland, Durham and Northumbria	265	272	299	369	340
Cumbria and Lancashire	66	53	82	82	86
Derbyshire and Nottinghamshire	106	162	103	67	173
Devon and Cornwall	65	112	97	96	110
Dorset, Gloucestershire and Wiltshire	72	42	55	49	57
Greater Manchester	162	123	153	125	138
Hampshire and Isle of Wight	75	65	77	129	123
Humber and South Yorkshire	230	231	330	257	274
Kent	64	80	78	101	102
Lincolnshire, Leicestershire and Rutland and Northamptonshire	98	74	94	69	83
London	534	530	582	548	613
Mid and West Wales	[1]—	13	26	14	7
North and West Yorkshire	137	154	154	186	189
North Wales	[1]—	6	11	35	44
South East Wales	111	82	95	93	85
Surrey and Sussex	133	146	127	139	143
Thames Valley	96	57	135	72	135
England and Wales	3,024	2,928	3,294	3,129	3,638

[1] Numbers less than five are withheld in order to preserve the confidentiality of those involved in the cases.

Number of emergency protection orders made annually by HMCS area, 2004-2008

Area	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*
Avon and Somerset	76	56	55	22	63
Bedfordshire, Essex and Herts	108	109	69	51	45
Birmingham, Coventry, Solihull and Warwickshire	132	135	49	30	27
Black Country, Staffordshire and West Mercia	293	240	170	143	[illegible]
Cambridgeshire, Norfolk and Suffolk	37	75	29	14	[1]—
Cheshire and Merseyside	79	47	24	25	46
Cleveland, Durham and Northumbria	101	60	78	41	60
Cumbria and Lancashire	110	90	33	35	20
Derbyshire and Nottinghamshire	20	71	37	[1]—	15
Devon and Cornwall	60	82	37	29	35
Dorset, Gloucestershire and Wiltshire	58	60	44	32	29
Greater Manchester	198	117	56	66	99
Hampshire and Isle of Wight	50	60	72	42	40
Humber and South Yorkshire	120	75	80	21	48
Kent	62	100	41	19	14

Number of emergency protection orders made annually by HMCS area, 2004-2008

Area	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*
Lincolnshire, Leicestershire and Rutland and Northamptonshire	6	10	[1]—	15	16
London	376	429	366	188	150
Mid and West Wales	25	28	32	[1]—	[1]—
North and West Yorkshire	162	140	76	96	122
North Wales	23	13	[1]—	[1]—	13
South East Wales	115	91	49	37	43
Surrey and Sussex	89	83	54	39	42
Thames Valley	62	55	48	16	63
England and Wales	2,362	2,226	1,520	983	1,107

[1] Numbers less than five are withheld in order to preserve the confidentiality of those involved in the cases.

Education: Assessments

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many pupils in *(a)* comprehensive and *(b)* independent schools began studying for pre-U examinations in September 2008. [264254]

Jim Knight *[holding answer 17 March 2009]*: The Department does not hold this information.

Educational Psychologists

Mr. Cox: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what arrangements his Department has in place for the long-term training and funding of educational psychologists. [266072]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: Educational psychologists (EPs) are local authority employees. It is for individual local authorities to determine, in the light of their assessment of needs and their own circumstances, the number of EPs required and their input in terms of training costs, placements, and eventual deployment.

The Children's Workforce Development Council (CWDC) is working with interested parties in order to develop a long-term and sustainable, employer-led funding and training scheme, while administering the current training arrangements. In doing so, the CWDC will continue actively to seek the views and engagement of all key stakeholders, through its Educational Psychology National Forum, and carefully examine options for future funding while working with local authorities to secure their agreement to pay into the current subscription scheme.

To assist this process, the CWDC has commissioned a workforce development model to support future planning. This will be used to help decide the number of training places needed nationally and regionally for the 2010/11 intake of students.

Further research into the role of EPs in the children's workforce of the future is also being commissioned to inform planning.

Fast Track Teaching Programme

Mr. Steen: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many *(a)* teachers responded to advertisements for the Fast Track Teaching programme and *(b)* retention allowances were paid to teachers in each year since the programme's inception. [266359]

Jim Knight: The information is not available in the format requested. The programme received approximately eight times as many inquiries as the number of people accepted onto the programme.

Recruitment/retention allowances were paid to the schools of all Fast Track Teachers (FTTs) recruited from 2000-05.

	Non teachers recruited	*Teachers recruited*
2001/02	90	23
2002/03	117	34
2003/04	308	218
2004/05	431	351
2005/06	432	114

From 2006/07 payments continued to the qualifying schools.

	FTTs entitled to payments
2006/07	1,032
2007/08	1,273
2008/09	967

Notes:

1. Figures are approximate, as some teachers left the programme early.
2. Recruitment/retention allowance was not paid in the NQT year for FTTs who joined as non-teachers and completed their PGCE as part of the programme between 2000 and 2005.

Mr. Steen: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families for what reasons the Fast Track Teaching programme has been terminated; and whether he plans to compensate financially those already participating in the programme. [266360]

Jim Knight: The Fast Track Teaching programme was designed in 2000 and since that time the educational context and the role of school leaders has changed significantly. There is now a greater need for provision which offers those with high potential for headship a personalised, accelerated route direct to the National Professional Qualification for Headship (NPQH). The Fast Track Teaching programme will be replaced with a new programme intended to meet better the needs of the system. The National College for School Leadership (NCSL) will continue to fund schools for the cost of the additional pay point awarded to eligible teachers who joined the Fast Track Teaching before September 2005. Fast Track teachers' basic salaries will not be affected by the programme coming to an end. From 1 September 2009, NCSL will no longer fund schools for the recruitment/retention allowance linked to participation in the programme.

Mr. Steen: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families if he will take steps to ensure that Mr. Thomas Graham of Kingsbridge Community College receives his Fast Track Teaching programme retention allowance until 2010; and if he will make a statement. [266361]

Jim Knight: The National College for School Leadership (NCSL) will cease funding Mr. Graham's school for the retention allowance, once the programme closes, on 31 August 2009. It is for the school to decide whether it continues to pay Mr. Graham the allowance.

In 2008, the Secretary of State accepted advice from the NCSL that the funding of schools for the cost of the allowances should cease when the programme closed.

Foundation Schools

Mr. Graham Stuart: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families under what circumstances the Secretary of State can intervene to order the closure of a foundation school; and if he will make a statement. [265691]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The Secretary of State may intervene to direct the closure of a foundation school only where Ofsted has placed the school in special measures. This direction must be following consultation with the local authority, the governing body of the school and the appropriate appointing body, the appropriate diocesan authority for a Church of England or Roman Catholic school or the person who appoints the foundation governors for other foundation schools. Where a school is not in special measures proposals for the closure of a foundation school would be brought forward and decided under local decision-making arrangements.

GCSEs: Chelmsford

Mr. Burns: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what percentage of pupils resident in West Chelmsford constituency achieved more than five A* to C grades at GCSE in each year since 1997. [261774]

Jim Knight: Information by pupil residence is only possible from 2002/03 onwards. The information shown in the table is for the last three years as a full time series going back to 2002/03 can be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Percentage of pupils[1,2] resident in West Chelmsford constituency achieving more than five A-C grades at GCSE and equivalents, 2005/06 to 2007/08[3]*

	Percentage
2005/06	58.8
2006/07	62.6
2007/08	63.3

[1] Pupils at the end of Key Stage 4.

[2] Includes pupils attending maintained schools only.

[3] Figures are based on final data in 2005/06 and 2006/07, and provisional data in 2007/08.

Source:
National Pupil Database

Integrated Children's System

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what criteria were used to determine the specifications for the Integrated Children's System; and who prepared the specifications. [266461]

Beverley Hughes: The Waterhouse report, published in February 2000, identified a number of shortcomings in children's social services, including the failure to record, retrieve and understand the significance of information about children. The Department of Health (DH) published the conceptual framework for the Integrated Children's System (ICS) as a consultation document in December 2002. It consisted of an integration of the "Framework for the Assessment of Children in Need and their Families" (issued under section 7 of the Local Authority Social Services Act 1970) and the "Looking After Children" guidance, to provide an assessment, planning, intervention and reviewing model for all children in need. The conceptual framework was used to develop a set of requirements for local authorities to procure systems from IT suppliers to support the delivery of the model.

These requirements were subsequently specified in further detail by the Department, in response to a progress review of implementation by all local authorities in 2006. Each requirement was reviewed with reference to industry standard attributes intended to make it unambiguous, traceable, testable and measurable for compliance.

The published requirements documents detail in full the statutory and regulatory sources of each requirement. An additional source of requirements includes new criteria requested in consultation by local authorities in 2008. These documents are obtainable from the following public sources.

Integrated Children's System Minimum Compliance Criteria

www.everychildmatters.gov.uk/resources-and-practice/IG00189/

Integrated Children's System—Phase 1B Business Requirements Specification

www.everychildmatters.gov.uk/resources-and-practice/IG00228/

Integrated Children's System Phase—1C Business Requirements Specification

www.everychildmatters.gov.uk/ics/

Pregnant Women: Suicide

John Hemming: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many cases have been reported to his Department of pregnant women committing suicide as a consequence of stress caused by public family law interventions in the last 12 months. [258924]

Beverley Hughes: This information is not collected centrally.

Primary Education: Greater London

Mr. Evennett: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how much was spent per pupil in primary education in *(a)* the London Borough of Bexley, *(b)* the London Borough of Greenwich and *(c)* the London Borough of Bromley in 2008-09. [264974]

Jim Knight: The available information on how much was spent per pupil in primary education in the London boroughs of Bexley, Greenwich and Bromley is for 2007-08 and this is shown in the following table. The information for 2008-09 is due to be submitted to the Department by 25 August 2009.

	School based expenditure per pupil by local authority maintained primary schools (£ per pupil)
England	3,580
Bexley	3,440

	School based expenditure per pupil by local authority maintained primary schools (£ per pupil)
Bromley	3,300
Greenwich	4,440

Notes:
1. School based expenditure includes only revenue expenditure incurred directly by the schools. This includes the pay of teachers and school-based support staff, school premises costs, books and equipment, and certain other supplies and services, less any capital items funded from recurrent spending and income from sales, fees and charges and rents and rates. This excludes the central cost of support services such as home to school transport, local authority administration and the financing of capital expenditure.
2. Pupil numbers include only those pupils attending local authority maintained primary schools and are drawn from the DCSF Schools Census adjusted to be on a financial year basis.
3. Figures are rounded to the nearest £10.
4. Cash terms figures as reported by local authorities as at 18 March 2008.

Primary Education: Per Capita Costs

Mr. Jenkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how much was spent per pupil in primary education in Staffordshire in 2008-09. [264525]

Jim Knight: The available information on how much was spent per pupil in primary education in Staffordshire is for 2007-08 and this is shown in the following table. The information for 2008-09 is due to be submitted to the Department by 25 August 2009.

	School based expenditure per pupil by local authority maintained primary schools (£ per pupil)
England	3,580
Staffordshire LA	3,270

Notes:
1. School based expenditure includes only revenue expenditure incurred directly by the schools. This includes the pay of teachers and school-based support staff, school premises costs, books and equipment, and certain other supplies and services, less any capital items funded from recurrent spending and income from sales, fees and charges and rents and rates. This excludes the central cost of support services such as home to school transport, local authority administration and the financing of capital expenditure.
2. Pupil numbers include only those pupils attending local authority maintained primary schools and are drawn from the DCSF Schools Census adjusted to be on a financial year basis.
3. Figures are rounded to the nearest £10.
4. Cash terms figures as reported by local authorities as at 18 March 2008.

Pupils: Health

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what guidance is made available for schools to support children who have been diagnosed with a health condition. [265537]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: Schools are encouraged to develop policies on managing medicines and supporting pupils with medical needs.

The Department has issued guidance to schools to help them support their pupils. Our guidance to schools, 'Managing Medicines in Schools and Early Years Settings', issued jointly with the Department of Health in 2005, gives advice to schools on how they can support pupils with medical needs. It encourages schools to draw up, in consultation with parents and medical professionals, individual Health Care Plans for children with medical needs. Sister guidance was published in the same year, entitled 'Including me: managing complex health needs in schools and early years settings'.

Since September 2007, schools have a duty to promote the well-being of all pupils, including those with long term medical conditions. This duty defines well-being as the five outcomes of the Every Child Matters, including being healthy and staying safe.

The Child Health Strategy, Better Health: Brighter Futures, published on 12 February, announced that the Department will be revising the guidance to schools on managing medicines which will include clear statements of expectations of those involved in supporting pupils with medical conditions, such as schools and primary care trusts. It is our intention that this work will be done in consultation with expert organisations and will be supported with an awareness raising campaign.

Parents: Hearing Impaired

Annette Brooke: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) what support is available from his Department to deaf parents and their families; [264557]

(2) what support is available from his Department to encourage deaf parents to participate in their children's education; [264558]

(3) what recent assessment he has made of his Department's performance against the requirements of the Disability Discrimination Act 1995 in respect of deaf parents and the education of their children. [264662]

Beverley Hughes: The Government acknowledge the difficulties disabled parents, including deaf parents, face. The most recent assessment made by the Secretary of State on the Department for Children, Schools and Families' report on progress towards disability equality under the Disability Discrimination Act 1995, was published in December 2008. It describes both what is happening within the DCSF to promote disability equality and what the entire sector is doing and how we are working together to achieve this.

In December 2008 DCSF published its first Secretary of State report on progress towards disability equality across the children's and education sector. Although there is no specific reference to deafness, or indeed other impairments with the exception of learning difficulties, this impairment is part of this report in as much as it is about disability and this of course comes within that definition.

In 2006 we asked each local authority to develop a parenting strategy within their children and young people's plan—these set out how the authority and its partners will make sure that parents get the services they need, including parents with disabilities. Most local authorities have developed strategies and have now moved into implementation.

To further support successful implementation of these strategies our parenting implementation project is working with 18 local authorities to test and develop new and innovative approaches to effective delivery of support services to parents and families. One of the project's work streams is considering the needs of parents with disabilities. The learning from the project will be shared with all local authorities in summer 2009.

We will continue to engage with stakeholders, including examining wider research relating to disabled parents' involvement in their children's education, to identify barriers to their effective engagement.

The Secretary of State's *report on disability equality* can be found at the Department's website:

http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/des/sosreport.shtml.

DCSF's Single Equality Scheme can be found at:

http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/publications/des/docs/single_equalityscheme.doc.

With regard to services for parents, our Parent Know How Programme provides funding to a range of third sector partners to provide information and advice services for all parents. Within this ParentlinePlus provides a confidential textphone service for parents and carers who are deaf, hard of hearing or have speech impairment. It is available on 0800 783 6783 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. As part of the ParentCast project we are preparing two videos targeted specifically at deaf parents—both are in British sign language (with an option for subtitles in English) which emphasise the need for deaf parents to have access to the same services as all other parents. The first video is about how two deaf parents got engaged in school activities and the second promotes the use of extended schools to deaf parents.

We encourage schools to use a range of ways to enhance the partnership with parents and carers, including advising schools to find out from parents what they would find helpful and what would encourage them to come into the school and participate at parents' evenings.

The Children's Plan, 2007, highlighted a partnership with parents as a 'unifying theme' across the whole plan and promised action on three fronts:

an enhanced dialogue between the school and parents;

parental involvement in school governance;

and an expansion of family learning opportunities.

We have promoted parental engagement in learning in other ways—for example, through encouraging parents and children to read together by providing free books to all families with young children through Bookstart, by improving access to information through Parent Know How, and by putting parent support advisers in place in many schools.

These measures have made a difference. Evidence shows that mothers and fathers now feel more involved in their child's school life—up from 29 per cent. in 2001 to 51 per cent. in 2007—and have an increasing appetite for involvement. But these figures also show that more can be done to bring parents centre stage in their child's learning.

To drive this forward, we proposed in The Children's Plan: Progress Report, published in December 2008, an approach which both empowers parents to engage and places parental engagement more centrally in the school and early years system. We made it clear that we will issue guidance to schools on working in partnership with parents and that that this guidance will cover how schools work with disabled, including deaf, parents.

Schools: Closures

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families pursuant to the answer of 4 March 2009, *Official Report*, column 1685W, on schools: closures, which schools have closed; in which year each closed; and in which local authority area each was located. [262503]

Jim Knight: The following table sets out which schools have closed in each year since 2000, and the local authority area in which the schools are located.

Rural school closures since 2000

Local authority	*School name*
2000	
Lancashire	Gisburn Forest Tosside Parochial VC School
Leicestershire	Tilton CE Primary School
2001	
Rutland	Ferrers Primary School
2002	
East Riding of Yorkshire	Beverley Walkergate Infant School
Herefordshire	Wormbridge C of E Primary School
Shropshire	Chelmarsh C of E Primary School
Warrington	St. Oliver Plunkett Catholic Primary School
York, City of	Oaken Grove Primary School
2003	
Bedfordshire	Colmworth C of E VC Lower School—Bedfordshire
Cheshire	Neston St. Mary's
East Riding of Yorkshire	Bewholme Primary School
Northumberland	Kirknewton CE VA First School
Nottinghamshire	Rufford Community Comprehensive School
Worcestershire	Pensax C of E Primary School
2004	
Cheshire	Ashley CE Primary School
Cornwall	Tresillian Infant School
Cumbria	St. Cuthbert's CE (VC) Primary School
Cumbria	Lowick C of E School
Durham	Haswell Primary School
East Riding of Yorkshire	Withernwick Primary School
Lincolnshire	Goodfellow's C of E Primary School
Suffolk	Gazeley CE VC Primary School
Wiltshire	St. Mary's C of E Primary School
Wiltshire	Nadder Middle School
Wiltshire	Leigh C of E Primary School
2005	
Cumbria	Bampton Endowed (VA) Primary School
Herefordshire	St. Mary's of Hope C of E Primary School
Lincolnshire	North Kyme Primary School
Northamptonshire	Barnwell CE (A) Primary School
Northumberland	Byrness First School
Northumberland	Lowgate First School
Northumberland	Horncliffe First School
Wiltshire	Wilton CE Middle School
Wiltshire	Farley All Saints Church of England VA School
Wiltshire	Maud Heath County Primary School

Rural school closures since 2000

Local authority	*School name*
2006	
Cheshire	*Buerton Primary School*
Cumbria	Satterthwaite and Rusland CE (VC) Primary
Kent	Doddington Primary School
Lincolnshire	St. Luke's Church of England Primary School
Norfolk	The Douglas Bader School, RAF Coltishall
North Yorkshire	Womersley Church of England VC Primary School
Somerset	Northmoor Green Community Primary School
Staffordshire	St. Mildred's CE (VA) Primary School
Staffordshire	St. John the Baptist (VA) Catholic Primary School
Wiltshire	Redlynch Church of England VA Primary School
2007	
Cornwall	Lanreath C of E VC Primary School
Devon	Chawleigh Primary School
Gloucestershire	Twigworth Church of England Primary School
Herefordshire	Brilley Church of England Primary School
Kent	The Ripple School
Kent	Hothfield Village Primary School
Kent	Detling C of E Primary School
Lincolnshire	Rippingale Church of England Primary School
North Yorkshire	Sutton-under-Whitestonecliffe C of E VC Primary School
North Yorkshire	Langcliffe Community Primary School
Nottinghamshire	Colston Bassett Primary School
Staffordshire	Our Lady's Catholic Primary School
Wiltshire	Avebury C of E Primary School
Wiltshire	Corsley C of E Primary School
2008	
Bolton	Scot Lane End C of E Primary School
Cheshire	Harthill Primary School
Cheshire	Dunham Hill Primary School
Cumbria	Lochinvar Community Secondary School
Derbyshire	Apperknowle Community Primary School
Durham	Hamsteels Primary School
Gloucestershire	Joys Green Primary School
Kent	Dunkirk Village School
North Yorkshire	Low Bentham Community Primary School
Northumberland	Chatton Church of England First School
Nottinghamshire	Besthorpe Primary School
Shropshire	Childs Ercall C of E Primary School
Suffolk	Cookley and Walpole C of E VC Primary School

The tables show closures where the schools ceased to be maintained and were not replaced. There are other circumstances involving school closure which have been excluded from the table because replacement provision was established, for example in the case of a change to a school's religious character or an amalgamation of an infant and junior school to form a primary school.

Figures given in an earlier response differ slightly to those given in the following tables. Some double counting of secondary school closures meant a higher number of closures were previously recorded.

Schools: Standards

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families if he will take steps to ensure that primary schools which are rebuilt incorporate the same design standards as secondary schools in the Building Schools for the Future programme in respect of *(a)* drinking water and *(b)* toilet facilities. [266074]

Jim Knight: The Department has already taken a number of steps to ensure that new and re-modelled primary school buildings—including drinking water and toilet facilities—are built to a good design standard. This includes using the Primary Capital Programme website to promote the Department's existing guidance and to showcase case study examples of good practice.

The Department is aware of the importance of well designed primary school toilets and is continuing to work with its partners to produce case study examples on this. It would not, however, be appropriate for primary school toilets to be built to exactly the same design standards as secondary school toilets.

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families if he will make it his policy to encourage secondary schools not participating in the Building Schools for the Future programme to allocate funds for improving *(a)* drinking water and *(b)* toilet facilities for pupils. [266075]

Jim Knight: Devolved Formula Capital (DFC) is allocated at school level, to be spent on whichever capital improvement a school considers to be the most beneficial, based on local priorities. Other funds can also be added to DFC, from the local authority and elsewhere, to improve facilities. The purposes for which DFC is used vary widely, from improving drinking water and toilet facilities, to other infrastructure improvement, ICT, sports facilities, even transport such as a school minibus.

Given the wide variety of need, I think it best to continue to allow schools and local authorities discretion in deciding how resources are spent, rather than to steer schools towards expenditure on improving specific facilities such as *(a)* drinking water or *(b)* toilet facilities for pupils.

Social Workers: Children

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families when he plans to introduce a children's social work postgraduate qualification for experienced children's social workers. [264382]

Beverley Hughes: Lord Laming's report recommends the introduction of a fully-funded, practice-focused children's social work postgraduate qualification for experienced children's social workers. The Government are committed to ensuring social work is a high quality, high status profession committed to excellent practice and respected by clients and the wider public. We agree with Lord Laming that social work should become a Masters-level profession. We expect this to be an important element of the long-term and comprehensive reform programme for social work which will be informed by the advice of the Social Work Task Force and which we will set out in the autumn.

In immediate response to Lord Laming's recommendations, we have asked the General Social Care Council (GSCC) and the Children's Workforce Development Council (CWDC) to work together to define and consult on the content and implementation of a practice-based Masters for qualified children and families social workers.

This work builds on our current investment of over £73 million to improve the quality of social worker training, tackle recruitment and retention shortages and to improve the quality of practice and leadership.

Teachers: Males

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families with reference to his letter of correction of 4 December 2008 to the hon. Member for East Worthing and Shoreham, Deposited Paper DEP2008-2997, to the answer of 28 October 2008, *Official Report*, column 596W, on teachers: males, what the 2008 figures are, broken down by local authority area. [264682]

Jim Knight: The following table provides the full-time qualified number of male teachers employed in local authority maintained nursery/primary and secondary schools broken down by individual local authorities in England, January 2008.

Full-time qualified males in local authority maintained nursery/primary and secondary schools: January 2008—Coverage: Local authorities in England

	Nursery/primary	*Secondary*[1]
England	25,180	78,750
City of London	—	—
Camden	70	220
Greenwich	130	360
Hackney	170	130
Hammersmith and Fulham	60	160
Islington	120	240
Kensington and Chelsea	40	80
Lambeth	140	230
Lewisham	150	230
Southwark	200	180
Tower Hamlets	180	470
Wandsworth	110	270
Westminster	80	180
Barking and Dagenham	120	370
Barnet	150	480
Bexley	90	470
Brent	160	450
Bromley	130	550
Croydon	130	410
Ealing	150	350
Enfield	160	580
Haringey	150	340
Harrow	90	200
Havering	120	380
Hillingdon	140	400
Hounslow	90	390
Kingston upon Thames	50	230
Merton	80	160
Newham	240	460
Redbridge	130	540
Richmond upon Thames	80	140
Sutton	60	390
Waltham Forest	130	340
Birmingham	680	1,810
Coventry	140	500
Dudley	180	490
Sandwell	180	450
Solihull	130	320
Walsall	160	520
Wolverhampton	160	440
Knowsley	90	250
Liverpool	250	780
St. Helens	110	280
Sefton	130	470
Wirral	160	630
Bolton	150	460
Bury	120	270
Manchester	260	510
Oldham	130	440
Rochdale	110	350
Salford	110	290
Stockport	120	330
Tameside	110	390
Trafford	110	370
Wigan	150	500
Barnsley	120	340
Doncaster	150	520
Rotherham	130	570
Sheffield	270	730
Bradford	310	850
Calderdale	140	380
Kirklees	200	650
Leeds	380	1,130
Wakefield	180	540
Gateshead	110	310
Newcastle upon Tyne	120	440
North Tyneside	90	350
South Tyneside	80	280
Sunderland	140	520
Isles of Scilly	10	—
Bath and North East Somerset	100	300
Bristol, City of	240	330
North Somerset	90	330
South Gloucestershire	150	450
Hartlepool	60	170
Middlesbrough	80	150
Redcar and Cleveland	60	260
Stockton-on-Tees	100	330
Kingston Upon Hull, City of	150	370
East Riding of Yorkshire	150	550

Full-time qualified males in local authority maintained nursery/ primary and secondary schools: January 2008—Coverage: Local authorities in England

	Nursery/primary	Secondary[1]
North East Lincolnshire	90	300
North Lincolnshire	60	250
North Yorkshire	290	1,070
York	100	240
Bedfordshire	70	720
Luton	100	240
Buckinghamshire	200	710
Milton Keynes	110	370
Derbyshire	370	1,210
Derby	120	410
Dorset	170	720
Poole	70	240
Bournemouth	70	240
Durham	240	830
Darlington	50	130
East Sussex	220	710
Brighton and Hove	130	350
Hampshire	570	1,580
Portsmouth	80	200
Southampton	100	280
Leicestershire	290	990
Leicester	150	420
Rutland	10	50
Staffordshire	370	1,460
Stoke-on-Trent	120	360
Wiltshire	220	710
Swindon	80	240
Bracknell Forest	40	130
Windsor and Maidenhead	30	210
West Berkshire	50	300
Reading	50	120
Slough	60	210
Wokingham	60	240
Cambridgeshire	240	730
Peterborough	90	260
Cheshire	340	1,060
Halton	70	200
Warrington	100	330
Devon	440	1,080
Plymouth	160	460
Torbay	70	250
Essex	570	2,150
Southend-on-Sea	90	310
Thurrock	60	170
Herefordshire	100	260
Worcestershire	240	890
Kent	680	2,230
Medway	110	480
Lancashire	630	1,800
Blackburn with Darwen	90	240
Blackpool	80	190
Nottinghamshire	450	1,390
Nottingham	150	360
Shropshire	130	410
Telford and Wrekin	70	240
Cornwall	380	850
Cumbria	260	910
Gloucestershire	310	1,000
Hertfordshire	390	1,900
Isle of Wight	40	270
Lincolnshire	370	1,240
Norfolk	490	1,290
Northamptonshire	320	1,010
Northumberland	60	620
Oxfordshire	240	780
Somerset	260	780
Suffolk	240	1,270
Surrey	340	1,320
Warwickshire	210	760
West Sussex	380	1,050
School Census		

[1] Excludes academies.
Figures are rounded to the nearest 10.
— nil or negligible
Source:
School Census

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families with reference to his letter of correction of 4 December 2008 to the hon. Member for East Worthing and Shoreham, Deposited Paper DEP2008-2997, to the Answer of 28 October 2008, *Official Report*, column 596W, on teachers: males, what the 2008 figures are, broken down by decile of income deprivation affecting children indices. [264683]

Jim Knight: The following table shows the number of qualified full-time male teachers in local authority maintained nursery/primary and secondary schools broken down by decile of income deprivation affecting children indices (IDACI) in 2008.

Qualified full-time male teachers in local authority maintained nursery/primary and secondary schools broken down by decile of income deprivation affecting children indices(IDACI)—Year: 2008 Coverage: England

Deciles of rank of deprivation	*Nursery/ primary*	*Secondary*
0-10 per cent. (most deprived)	3,260	5,680
10-20 per cent.	2,650	5,840
20-30 per cent.	2,600	8,180
30-40 per cent.	2,520	7,830
40-50 per cent.	2,490	9,540
50-60 per cent.	2,510	7,500
60-70 per cent.	2,350	9,250
70-80 per cent.	2,450	8,300
80-90 per cent.	2,310	8,400
90-100 per cent. (least deprived)	2,030	8,230
Total	25,180	78,750

Note:
Figures are rounded to the nearest 10.
Source:
School Census and Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG)

Teachers: Postgraduate Education

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what provision for financial assistance is planned for schools to provide teaching cover for teachers who are studying for the new MA in Teaching and Learning; and if he will make a statement. [264853]

Jim Knight: The Government have made £30 million available in 2008-11 for the initial rollout of the Masters in Teaching and Learning (MTL), and up to an additional £25 million will be made available to fund MTL for teachers in National Challenge schools in 2009-11. The funding will pay for teaching cover for teachers participating in the programme and their in-school coaches. It will also pay for the development of the programme; higher education institutions' ongoing costs; for the training of in-school coaches; and for the time of tutors from higher education institutions to support teachers in their learning. Funding for schools will be ring-fenced.

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many teachers he expects to enrol on courses for the MA in Teaching and Learning in *(a)* September 2009 and *(b)* January 2010; and if he will make a statement. [264854]

Jim Knight: The Masters in Teaching and Learning (MTL) will be available to all Newly Qualified Teachers (NQTs) taking up post in schools in the North West region from September 2009, and to NQTs in National Challenge Schools, and in secondary schools where 30 per cent. or more of pupils are eligible for Free School Meals and where the leadership is rated good or better by Ofsted, from January 2010. We will only know how many NQTs are entitled to take up the MTL, and how many choose to do so, when they take up posts in schools from September 2009. However, we estimate that at least 4,000 NQTs could take up the offer of the MTL in 2009/10.

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how much time he expects newly-qualified teachers enrolled on the new MA in Teaching and Learning to spend outside the classroom as part of their course; and if he will make a statement. [264855]

Jim Knight: The Masters in Teaching and Learning (MTL) programme is currently being developed by MTL providers, which are schools and higher education institutions working together, and the Training and Development Agency for Schools. One of the aims is to develop a flexible programme, which can be personalised to meet each teacher's learning needs, reflecting the role being undertaken by that teacher. It is therefore not possible to provide details of time commitments for individual teachers at this stage. It is important to remember that, although teachers may need to undertake some study in their own time, the programme will be practice-based, with learning centred around what is happening in the classroom.

DUCHY OF LANCASTER

Departmental Correspondence

Mr. Andrew Turner: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how many letters from hon. Members were received by *(a)* the Prime Minister's Office and *(b)* the Cabinet Office in (i) January and (ii) February 2009; and how many letters from hon. Members received in 2008 were responded to (A) in less than two weeks, (B) in between two weeks and one month, (C) in between one and two months and (D) in over two months. [265939]

Mr. Watson: The Cabinet Office, on an annual basis, publishes a report to Parliament on the performance of Departments in replying to Members' correspondence. The report for 2008 will be published shortly.

Departmental Disciplinary Proceedings

David Simpson: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster (1) how many staff in the Cabinet Office *(a)* were disciplined and *(b)* had their employment terminated as a result of a poor sickness record in each of the last 12 months; [262219]

(2) how many staff in the Prime Minister's Office *(a)* were disciplined and *(b)* had their employment terminated as a result of a poor sickness record in each of the last 12 months. [262225]

Mr. Watson: Data regarding sickness absence at the Cabinet Office, including the Prime Minister's Office are published on the Cabinet Office website.

This information has been placed in the Library of the House.

Disclosure of Information: Mass Media

Mr. Bone: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how many leaks of Government information to the media the Cabinet Office has investigated in the last year. [259454]

Mr. Watson: The Cabinet Office, on behalf of the Cabinet Secretary as Head of the Home Civil Service and as Chair of the Official Committee on Security, has responsibility for co-ordinating security matters across Government. Each Department is obliged to inform the Cabinet Office when leak investigations are instigated. It is for departmental permanent secretaries to take decisions on whether leak investigations into the unauthorised disclosure of information originating in their Departments should be carried out.

The Cabinet Office has undertaken no leak investigations in the last year. In its role co-ordinating security matters, the Cabinet Office has provided advice and assistance to other Government Departments on inquiries and policy.

Government Departments: Data Protection

Mr. Hollobone: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what assistance his Department has given to other Departments in the investigation of unauthorised disclosures of information in the last 12 months. [265715]

Mr. Watson: In the last 12 months, the Cabinet Office has provided advice and assistance to a number of Government Departments on matters relating to policy and practice concerning the investigation of unauthorised disclosures of information, as well as making investigators available from the central list that we manage.

Infant Mortality

Derek Twigg: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how many children under the age of one year died in each year since 1997, broken down by primary care trust. [263660]

Kevin Brennan: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated March 2009:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your recent question asking how many children under the age of one year have died in each year since 1997, broken down by primary care trust. (263660)

The table attached provides the number of deaths of children aged under one year, in each primary care organisation in England, from 1997 to 2007 (the latest figures available).

Table 1. Number of deaths of children aged under one year, primary care organisations in England[1,2], 1997 to 2007[3]

											Deaths
Area	*1997*	*1998*	*1999*	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*
England	3,500	3,371	3,370	3,205	3,063	3,002	3,145	3,069	3,078	3,192	3,127
North East SHA	170	145	152	172	145	131	126	136	126	158	139
County Durham	32	27	37	34	33	25	21	25	31	33	23
Darlington	2	8	9	5	7	4	5	6	7	13	6
Gateshead	14	10	16	11	7	7	12	7	13	16	13
Hartlepool	8	7	6	6	7	5	6	6	2	10	12
Middlesbrough	10	12	8	9	14	14	10	8	15	7	8
Newcastle	13	16	10	20	12	16	13	18	14	11	9
North Tees	15	10	8	16	14	8	8	15	7	14	10
North Tyneside	15	10	8	12	8	12	8	8	7	8	8
Northumberland	21	13	25	18	10	13	9	6	10	8	23
Redcar and Cleveland	7	8	4	8	8	4	9	11	7	12	5
South Tyneside	10	6	5	10	12	6	5	5	7	11	7
Sunderland Teaching	25	18	16	25	13	17	20	21	6	15	15
North West SHA	563	488	525	476	462	465	462	435	474	470	433
Ashton, Leigh and Wigan	23	19	22	22	26	15	19	13	16	25	47
Blackburn with Darwen	21	20	14	20	14	15	14	9	19	13	17
Blackpool	16	8	12	9	9	5	11	7	9	18	12
Bolton	20	22	23	16	16	21	20	20	24	27	18
Bury	11	12	9	20	6	10	8	13	9	11	10
Central and Eastern Cheshire	24	18	29	22	20	29	17	23	20	16	14
Central Lancashire	32	30	35	30	27	26	31	30	28	31	26
Cumbria	33	20	27	16	22	13	28	23	21	23	22
East Lancashire	42	24	34	30	30	18	37	31	34	28	29
Halton and St. Helens	34	26	22	25	19	18	22	23	26	30	25
Heywood, Middleton and Rochdale	25	13	20	16	18	17	20	14	15	17	18
Knowsley	17	19	11	12	13	8	7	10	10	5	9
Liverpool	48	30	34	37	31	30	27	28	44	32	30
Manchester	51	61	52	51	51	52	41	54	48	36	55
North Lancashire	17	17	18	16	17	15	15	13	18	20	12
Oldham	22	24	22	25	16	25	22	26	17	23	18
Salford	18	21	9	13	18	15	15	15	15	17	19
Sefton	20	21	26	10	9	16	11	7	19	14	7
Stockport	23	16	19	12	21	8	20	18	18	8	14
Tameside and Glossop	15	15	15	15	15	12	[illegible]	10	9	20	8
Trafford	10	14	16	14	12	9	[illegible]	6	9	13	13
Warrington	12	11	13	11	8	11	16	11	12	11	10
Western Cheshire	12	14	12	4	10	10	16	15	13	20	15
Wirral	18	29	23	25	14	9	18	16	21	15	15
Yorkshire and the Humber SHA	393	410	390	407	320	345	337	334	372	360	362
Barnsley	13	22	10	22	12	9	13	16	10	16	10

Table 1. Number of deaths of children aged under one year, primary care organisations in England[1,2], 1997 to 2007[3]

											Deaths
Area	*1997*	*1998*	*1999*	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*
Bradford and Airedale	54	64	59	72	63	68	68	41	69	62	73
Calderdale	18	22	20	16	13	13	16	17	16	12	15
Doncaster	29	26	21	18	16	22	17	18	27	26	23
East Riding of Yorkshire	14	18	18	8	16	16	13	15	11	8	9
Hull	29	26	16	19	15	11	17	15	14	24	12
Kirklees	40	29	35	33	35	46	42	40	37	39	35
Leeds	52	64	50	57	40	41	48	45	59	53	49
North East Lincolnshire Care Trust Plus	9	11	10	12	14	14	8	4	10	10	17
North Lincolnshire	12	10	8	16	10	7	7	11	13	10	5
North Yorkshire and York	41	39	36	45	21	21	18	30	39	31	32
Rotherham	24	24	19	13	14	11	20	25	16	14	19
Sheffield	34	33	41	42	34	48	34	34	30	39	46
Wakefield District	22	22	16	33	21	18	16	23	21	16	17
East Midlands SHA	277	267	288	251	221	252	278	248	229	276	276
Bassetlaw	13	6	6	8	11	5	4	10	5	7	7
Derby City	22	19	20	18	20	17	18	15	14	10	24
Derbyshire County	33	44	41	36	26	37	35	45	29	32	30
Leicester City	25	34	35	31	26	23	32	27	24	36	41
Leicestershire County and Rutland	36	30	42	22	29	23	37	15	38	40	31
Lincolnshire	47	40	41	29	24	39	45	39	31	36	41
Northamptonshire	43	39	49	38	25	38	49	47	32	46	38
Nottingham City	26	25	24	24	31	33	32	21	28	34	26
Nottinghamshire County	32	28	29	43	27	35	25	28	28	32	38
West Midlands SHA	472	418	440	427	390	399	463	445	425	432	415
Birmingham East and North	50	46	52	45	56	54	68	52	49	59	59
Coventry Teaching	30	35	28	24	26	31	27	35	17	17	23
Dudley	24	20	32	16	13	12	14	12	24	23	13
Heart of Birmingham Teaching	54	43	38	52	50	65	67	56	48	52	51
Herefordshire	8	10	8	1	4	6	4	9	12	7	5
North Staffordshire	7	10	15	13	10	6	10	11	8	5	17
Sandwell	31	34	25	29	25	32	32	28	32	37	33
Shropshire County	16	16	7	13	12	17	18	10	11	13	12
Solihull	12	6	11	13	10	8	5	8	9	12	9
South Birmingham	24	29	29	32	20	27	34	26	27	42	19
South Staffordshire	40	24	42	42	33	29	50	31	37	40	45
Stoke on Trent	28	21	26	28	21	32	23	31	30	23	20
Telford and Wrekin	14	16	11	16	16	6	10	11	9	13	5
Walsall Teaching	36	26	29	17	19	18	19	31	35	23	30
Warwickshire	30	35	28	27	24	13	27	35	23	19	25
Wolverhampton City	29	16	27	27	26	18	27	26	20	22	17
Worcestershire	39	31	32	32	25	25	28	33	34	25	32
East of England SHA	310	325	291	268	273	266	280	271	260	273	299

Table 1. Number of deaths of children aged under one year, primary care organisations in England[1,2], 1997 to 2007[3]

Area	*1997*	*1998*	*1999*	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*Deaths 2007*
Bedfordshire	21	18	24	17	25	17	23	21	22	18	17
Cambridgeshire	46	30	27	22	30	24	29	26	25	28	26
East and North Hertfordshire	29	24	25	32	23	30	22	21	26	23	27
Great Yarmouth and Waveney	12	11	12	9	11	8	9	8	6	5	10
Luton	23	20	25	27	18	24	12	20	18	22	20
Mid Essex	26	15	23	16	15	15	15	15	13	15	27
Norfolk	41	48	31	24	25	28	31	31	35	41	38
North East Essex	12	19	16	9	14	14	11	15	15	14	17
Peterborough	14	12	13	11	14	12	19	7	17	17	12
South East Essex	4	21	12	12	10	12	16	14	12	16	14
South West Essex	19	21	18	24	19	29	21	20	15	25	24
Suffolk	19	34	29	29	23	14	28	38	20	20	34
West Essex	16	15	13	14	12	18	20	10	11	12	12
West Hertfordshire	28	37	23	22	34	21	24	25	25	17	21
London SHA	615	624	636	570	633	594	600	588	587	593	571
Barking and Dagenham	18	14	18	8	8	11	13	18	11	15	16
Barnet	22	23	25	14	12	19	17	15	32	14	17
Bexley	5	11	10	10	15	9	16	14	13	12	10
Brent Teaching	24	22	34	27	35	44	21	20	22	31	23
Bromley	19	16	13	16	11	14	17	18	10	13	10
Camden	10	12	20	11	17	18	13	20	14	11	11
City and Hackney Teaching	45	22	35	27	33	36	32	15	24	20	29
Croydon	29	32	36	40	20	31	20	20	37	30	26
Ealing	20	15	23	23	26	33	19	17	21	23	15
Enfield	25	17	22	20	20	13	33	23	30	33	30
Greenwich Teaching	16	25	16	16	22	25	21	25	15	20	24
Hammersmith and Fulham	14	15	15	13	12	12	13	9	10	12	7
Haringey Teaching	17	21	25	29	29	20	36	30	31	26	18
Harrow	12	24	22	16	11	12	16	17	28	14	14
Havering	12	16	8	9	7	15	6	10	5	14	9
Hillingdon	15	26	11	12	21	14	10	12	14	15	26
Hounslow	19	14	17	16	29	4	17	20	23	12	20
Islington	7	11	22	17	13	13	21	19	16	13	14
Kensington and Chelsea	14	15	8	10	12	10	7	4	8	3	8
Kingston	2	8	7	4	7	5	4	11	6	7	5
Lambeth	36	25	35	29	30	33	34	27	29	28	25
Lewisham	30	45	25	27	31	20	20	17	22	22	18
Newham	41	38	32	33	33	37	39	45	24	40	37
Redbridge	17	12	15	19	23	18	18	20	15	22	26
Richmond and Twickenham	12	8	5	8	11	11	8	5	8	5	8
Southwark	40	31	29	25	39	30	42	33	19	32	41
Sutton and Merton	27	20	21	15	22	19	25	27	23	27	19
Tower Hamlets	18	26	23	19	17	24	20	16	17	17	21
Waltham Forest	18	23	32	24	32	19	18	31	18	29	20
Wandsworth	13	19	21	20	17	9	18	14	27	18	16
Westminster	18	18	11	13	18	16	6	16	15	15	8
South East Coast SHA	237	205	208	194	146	214	200	190	182	207	198
Brighton and Hove City	20	14	15	20	7	18	16	21	19	20	17
East Sussex Downs and Weald	24	17	20	19	17	9	15	13	6	18	12

Table 1. Number of deaths of children aged under one year, primary care organisations in England[1,2] 1997 to 2007[3]

Area	*1997*	*1998*	*1999*	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*Deaths* 2007
Eastern and Coastal Kent	46	33	39	25	30	43	42	32	43	39	49
Hastings and Rother	6	6	8	10	7	6	9	10	7	11	9
Medway	19	18	16	16	9	25	21	23	10	13	15
Surrey	42	55	45	51	36	48	31	34	40	40	48
West Kent	42	27	35	27	22	27	30	25	31	27	17
West Sussex	38	34	29	26	18	38	36	32	26	39	31
South Central SHA	238	218	240	205	225	178	194	174	185	202	196
Berkshire East	29	24	28	18	24	28	19	14	22	29	26
Berkshire West	22	29	35	27	30	15	32	24	28	28	27
Buckinghamshire	28	29	18	35	32	12	23	23	22	21	29
Hampshire	80	52	71	52	53	46	48	44	40	45	49
Isle of Wight National Health Service	6	4	6	2	3	5	3	5	0	3	5
Milton Keynes	22	17	19	18	21	17	27	15	17	20	14
Oxfordshire	26	31	41	23	28	26	27	32	32	33	25
Portsmouth City Teaching	17	20	12	15	19	15	9	12	10	8	8
Southampton City	17	13	11	15	15	14	6	5	14	14	13
South West SHA	316	261	240	233	264	218	205	240	238	221	238
Bath and North East Somerset	2	8	9	4	6	7	6	9	3	10	8
Bournemouth and Poole	21	15	19	11	17	16	7	14	17	16	13
Bristol	31	32	21	27	31	26	23	28	27	25	27
Cornwall and Isles of Scilly	42	14	23	18	23	24	19	29	22	22	23
Devon	40	37	32	27	36	17	14	34	34	28	31
Dorset	14	16	12	14	13	19	12	14	18	14	16
Gloucestershire	35	37	32	23	27	21	27	28	29	25	32
North Somerset	12	12	13	8	14	8	14	7	5	8	9
Plymouth Teaching	22	13	12	16	11	13	19	14	15	12	19
Somerset	24	25	23	26	26	20	19	23	22	21	23
South Gloucestershire	21	6	13	12	16	11	9	13	8	10	6
Swindon	15	13	9	15	16	9	14	17	11	10	13
Torbay	9	6	5	7	3	8	6	5	9	5	5
Wiltshire	28	27	17	25	25	19	16	13	18	16	13

[1] Based on boundaries as of 2009.

[2] All primary care organisations are Primary Care Trusts (PCTs) other than Bexley, Northumberland, Solihull and Torbay, which have Care Trust status, and North East Lincolnshire, which has Care Trust Plus status. Not all primary care organisations (PCOs) are entirely within the boundaries of the strategic health authorities (SHAs) to which they report, so the sum of the deaths in the PCOs included in an SHA do not always equal the total figure shown for that SHA.

[3] Figures are for deaths registered in each calendar year.

State Retirement Pensions

Steve Webb: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster pursuant to the written ministerial statement of 16 December 2008, *Official Report*, columns 111-12WS, on guaranteed minimum pension calculations, for what reasons some pensioners have been underpaid since 1978; what estimate he has made of *(a)* the number of people affected, *(b)* the average annual underpayment and *(c)* the cumulative underpayment; and what plans he has to repay such underpayments. [263563]

Mr. Byrne: My written ministerial statement of 16 December 2008, *Official Report*, columns 111-12WS, explained the circumstances in which some public service pensioners had been paid the incorrect pension. While the majority of those affected were overpaid a small number were underpaid. The National Audit Office (NAO) is investigating the causes of the error. I will update the House once the NAO has completed its work.

The data requested by the hon. Member are not yet available. However, I can confirm that all those who have been underpaid will receive their pension arrears in full, with interest.

Written Answers to Questions

Thursday 26 March 2009

DEFENCE

Armed Forces: Health Services

Lynne Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what use his Department makes of services offered by Resolution for serving and former armed forces personnel diagnosed with trauma; and if he will make a statement. [266404]

Mr. Kevan Jones: The MOD does not use the services of Resolution for the treatment of serving personnel. We operate our own 15 military Departments of Community Mental Health (DCMHs) across the UK and satellite centres overseas, which provide out-patient mental health care for serving personnel. These provide community-based mental health in line with the guidelines and standards set by the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE) and the National Service Frameworks.

The DCMHs provide appropriately tested and effective methods of treatment for service personnel. While we remain in touch with advances and developments in treatment in order to ensure that patients receive the most effective and efficient management, it is essential that these are subject to proper scientific evaluation and comparison with current effective treatments.

When personnel leave military service their health care becomes the responsibility of the NHS. The MOD, the four Health Departments and the Combat Stress charity have been working together with clinical experts and the Health and Social Care Advisory Service (HASCAS) to develop a new model of community based mental health care that will address assessment and treatment of veterans' mental health problems in the long term.

The community mental health model will be led by the NHS. Two-year pilots are operating in Staffordshire and Shropshire, Camden and Islington, Cardiff, Bishop Auckland, Plymouth and Scotland. The pilots are centred on the client and GP with the aim of encouraging access to care through a range of gateways using an evidence-based approach reflecting NHS best practice. If these pilots prove successful the model will be rolled out across the UK. Evaluation of the pilot areas is now under way. In the interim, for areas not yet involved in the pilots, veterans with operational service after 1982 and mental health problems may attend our Medical Assessment Programme based at St. Thomas' Hospital.

Armed Forces: Housing

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the answer of 19 January 2009, *Official Report*, column 1043W, on armed forces: housing, how many complaints made to Modern Housing Solutions originated in each *(a)* parish, *(b)* local authority area and *(c)* region. [266440]

Mr. Kevan Jones: The information is not held in the format requested. It is only possible to provide a regional breakdown of complaint origins and this is provided in the following table.

Modern Housing Solution Region	*Area*	*Number*
East	Brampton	10
	Chicksands	4
	Colchester	19
	Cottesmore	14
	Marham	5
	Thetford	5
	Wattisham	14
East total		71
West	Abingdon	23
	Brize Norton	14
	Bushey	28
	High Wycombe	12
	Kingston	31
	Uxbridge	20
	Woolwich	5
West total		133
North	Boulmer	2
	Catterick	15
	Waddington	16
	York	9
North total		42
South East	Aldershot	60
	Arborfield	16
	Brompton	12
	Folkestone	9
	Gosport	22
	Portsmouth	20
South East total		139
South West	Bovington	9
	Colerne	1
	Helston	3
	Larkhill	44
	Lympstone	3
	Lyneham	17
	Plymouth	6
	Warmister	10
South West total		93
West	Chester	5
	Haverfordwest	1
	Hereford	5
	St. Athan	2
	Telford	12
	Weeton	5
West total		30
Total		508

Armed Forces: Recruitment

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) what the recruitment *(a)* target and *(b)* level achieved was for each pinch point trade in the (i) Army, (ii) Royal Navy and (iii) Royal Air Force in each of the last five years; [265132]

(2) what the recruitment *(a)* target and *(b)* level achieved was for each pinch point trade for the (i) Army, (ii) Navy and (iii) Royal Air Force in each of the last five years. [257693]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: Information relating to the recruitment into pinch point trades has hitherto been unavailable as the tracking of pinch point trades is a recent development in the management of key personnel. This has in part been rectified but not all of the information is currently available, particularly where pinch points occur in the middle of a rank ranged trade. The recruited figures provided in the following tables include personnel who are promoted into the trade and rank group, rejoined the armed forces or internally transferred.

Royal Navy

			Current shortfall		
Operational pinch point trades	*Liability*	*Strength*	*Number*	*Percentage*	*Recruited*
Lt Cdr X SM Command Qualified (SM(CQ))	47	45	2	5	13
Lt X SM IWC Qualified and SQEP	40	39	1	3	16
Principal Warfare Officers	359	289	70	20	13
RN Harrier GR7/9 Instructors[1]	9	6	3	33	2
RN Harrier GR7/9 Pilots (including Instructors)[1]	33	24	9	27	0
MCD/MWO Lts	81	47	34	43	8
Strategic Weapons Systems Junior Ranks	110	86	24	22	[2]—
Merlin Pilots	122	78	44	36	8
Merlin Observers	116	71	45	39	14
Merlin Aircrewmen	103	80	23	22	7
Leading Seaman General Warfare	1,105	815	290	26	342
Able Rate Diver	135	95	40	30	39
Lt X SM Advanced Warfare Course Qualified (SQEP)	34	30	4	12	16
Able Rate 1 Seaman	388	291	97	25	389
Able Rate 1 Warfare Specialist	666	635	31	5	[2]—
Able Rate 1 Communications and Information Systems	367	335	32	9	[2]—
Leading Aircraft Controllers	73	41	32	44	8
Royal Marines Other Ranks (Pt-Cpl)	6.525	6,003	522	8	667
Able Rate Warfare Specialist (Sensors Submariner)	178	144	34	17	177
Sea-King and Lynx Avionics Supervisors	348	284	64	18	26
Cat A2 Nuclear Watchkeepers	189	157	32	17	22
Cat B Nuclear Watchkeepers	377	316	61	16	56
L Logs(CS)(P)	328	261	67	25	72
AB Logs (CS) (P)	456	447	9	2	112
L Logs (Pers)	239	222	17	7	103
AB Logs (Pers)	392	391	1	0	99
LS (MW)	70	65	5	8	26
Able Rate Warfare Specialist (Tactical Submariner)	124	116	8	7	35

[1] GR7: Changes to liability and strength. Figures previously presented unfortunately contained administrative errors and reflected some confusion whereby GR7 qualifications have been replaced by GR9 qualifications. Searches within JPA for GR7 qualifications would not flag GR9 qualifications. RN GR9 pilot numbers have just been the subject of very detailed scrutiny. The updated strength figures reflects the growth of the RN Harrier cadre in accordance with the extant JFH manning plan but which unfortunately had not been reflected in the GR7-based OPP figures from last year. Those figures did not fully reflect all GR9 tagged pilots on JPA.

[2] Not identifiable figures result from changes to the trade structure or where the specific trade cannot be broken down sufficiently to provide definitive numbers.

Army

			Current shortfall		
	Liability	*Strength*	*Number*	*Percentage*	*Recruited*
Operational pinch point trades					
RE Clk of Wks: SSgt-WO1	248	237	11	4.4	19
RLC Ammo Tech: Cpl-SSgt	306	176	130	42.5	50
Infantry: Pte-LCpl	14,980	13,380	1,600	10.7	2,237
REME Rec Mech: LCpl-Cpl	339	213	126	37.2	25
RE EOD: Cpl-SSgt	131	109	22	16.7	33
REME VM: Cfn-Cpl	3,521	3,224	297	8.4	525
Int OPMI: Cpl-Sgt	708	476	232	32.8	102
REME Armourer: Cfn-Cpl	377	303	74	19.6	54
RA Gunner: Gnr-Bdr (including Para Cdo Gnrs and OP Asst)	4,987	4,490	497	10.0	[1]749

Army

	Liability	Strength	Current shortfall Number	Current shortfall Percentage	Recruited
Manning pinch point trades					
AMS Radiologist: Maj+	[illegible]	2	2	50.0	0
AMS ITU Nurse: Cpl-Capt	121	35	86	71.1	5
AMS EM Nurse: Cpl-Capt	101	38	63	62.4	3
AMS Radiographer: Cpl+	24	12	12	50.0	5
AMS Anaesthetist: Maj+	49	23	26	53.1	1
AMS Orth Surg: Maj+	13	10	3	23.1	4
AMS Gen Surg: Maj+	17	10	7	41.2	0
REME Geo: Spr-WO2	365	284	81	22.2	41
RLC P&C Op: Pte-Cpl	433	435	-2	-0.5	38
RA UAV Op: LBdr-SSgt	370	299	71	19.2	[2]—
REME Fitter: Spr-LCpl	495	409	86	17.4	85
AGC(SPS) Mil Admin: Pte-Sgt	2,666	2,292	374	14.0	116
AMSGMP: Capt+	155	137	18	11.6	3
R. Signals IS Engr: Cpl-Sgt	252	124	128	50.8	42
CAMUS: Musician	300	199	101	33.7	10
AMS ODP: Cpl+	95	81	14	14.7	11
AMS RGN: Cpl-Sgt	293	263	30	10.2	52
REME C3S: Spr-LCpl	712	611	101	14.2	125
RLC Chef: Pte-LCpl	1,459	1,383	76	5.2	196

[1] Recruited only; does not include transfers or rejoins.

[2] There are no available figures for the period 1 April 2007 to 31 March 2008; lost in cutover from GOST to JPA.

Royal Air Force

	Liability	Strength	Current shortfall Number	Current shortfall Percentage	Recruited
Operational pinch point trades					
Flying Branch (Career Stream) (Senior Officer)	677	576	101	15	98
Pilot (Junior Officer)	1,490	1,288	202	14	132
Operation Support (Intelligence)	229	224	5	2	6
Operations Support (Regiment)	275	235	40	15	6
Operations Support (Flight Operations)	224	219	5	2	18
Medical	282	213	69	25	15
Medical Nursing Officer	179	128	51	29	11
Weapons System Operator (Crewman)	577	503	74	13	41
Weapons System Operator (Linguist)	63	50	13	21	2
Mechanical Transport Technician	355	342	13	3	—
Gunner	1,924	1,702	222	11	144
Firefighter	545	518	27	4	48
Air Traffic Controller (ATC)/Flight Operations Manager (FOM)/Flight Operations Assistant (FOA)	1,246	1,228	18	1	81
Logistics (Mover)	895	849	46	5	34
Manning pinch point trades					
Chaplains	78	63	15	19	1
Operation Support (Air Traffic Control)	397	371	26	7	18
Dental	71	57	14	20	2
Intelligence (Analyst)	679	590	89	13	19
Musician	175	152	23	13	15
Weapons System Officer (Junior Officer)	513	439	74	14	20
Operation Support (Aerospace Battle Manager)	342	293	49	14	21
Personnel (Support)	521	494	27	5	32
Personnel (Training)	219	198	21	10	10
Aircraft Technician (Mechanical)	4,965	4,299	666	13	—
Aircraft Technician (Avionics)	3,942	3,437	505	13	—
General Technician (Electrical)	551	491	60	11	14
General Technician (Mechanical)	963	436	527	55	15
Biomedical Scientist	15	9	6	40	3
Survival Equipment Fitter	607	562	45	7	15
Dental Nurse	131	122	9	7	8

Departmental Security

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many security passes granting access to his Department's main building have been *(a)* lost and *(b)* stolen in each of the last 15 months. [266940]

Mr. Kevan Jones: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave on 24 February 2009, *Official Report*, column 522W, which provided details of lost and stolen passes for 2008.

To date in 2009, 12 members of staff (including contractors) working in MOD Main Building reported their passes as lost. The monthly breakdown for 2009 is:

Month	*Number lost*
January	2
February	3
March	7

No passes to date in 2009 have been reported as stolen. Once reported as lost or stolen, passes are disabled immediately, denying access to the building.

European Fighter Aircraft

Mr. Gerald Howarth: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the written ministerial statement of 4 March 2009, *Official Report*, column 54WS, on aircraft (available support), what the payment schedule is for the contract with BAE Systems in respect of the Typhoon availability support service. [266394]

Mr. Quentin Davies: The financial arrangements for the Typhoon Availability Service (TAS) contract with BAE Systems include a payment schedule whereby payments are made monthly in arrears across the five year period of the contract; in addition, the contract includes incentivised performance targets and a gainshare arrangement.

Military Aircraft: Helicopters

Mr. Gerald Howarth: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether he plans to put out to tender a contract to *(a)* refurbish or *(b)* replace the Puma support helicopter; and if he will make a statement. [266392]

Mr. Quentin Davies: The Department is currently working with EADS Eurocopter, the original manufacturer of the Puma aircraft, to finalise plans for the upgrade of the existing Puma fleet. This work will ensure the Puma aircraft can continue to provide a significant contribution to our helicopter lift capability for at least 10 years beyond its planned Out of Service Date (OSD) of 2012. We expect to make the main investment decision on this project later this year, at which time its revised OSD will be confirmed. In parallel, we are already developing plans to sustain our helicopter lift capability beyond the OSD of Puma, but it is too early to comment further on these plans.

LEADER OF THE HOUSE

Members' Constituency Work: Digital Technology

Andrew Miller: To ask the Leader of the House what mechanisms are in place to assist hon. Members to engage with their constituents through the use of interactive digital technology. [267456]

Chris Bryant: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given to the hon. Member for Ribble Valley (Mr. Evans) on 2 March 2009, *Official Report*, column 1213W.

OLYMPICS

Departmental Public Appointments

Harry Cohen: To ask the Minister for the Olympics what information her Office holds on the number of persons appointed to executive positions in bodies for which her Office has responsibility who previously had careers in the banking industry. [261242]

Tessa Jowell: This information is not held centrally. However, I have been informed that no staff in executive positions at the Olympic Lottery Distributor and none of the Olympic Delivery Authority's Executive Management Board have a career history that involves the banking sector.

The London Organising Committee for the Olympic Games and Paralympic Games is a privately funded commercial organisation. Information about their executive staff members can be found on their website:

http://www.london2012.com/about/the-people-delivering-the-games/the-london-2012-organising-committee/locog-board.php

A copy of the relevant website pages will be placed in the House Libraries.

Departmental Sick Leave

Norman Lamb: To ask the Minister for the Olympics how many staff in her Office were on sick leave for *(a)* over 30 days, *(b)* over 50 days and *(c)* over 100 days in each year since its inception. [256332]

Tessa Jowell: No members of staff in my private office have been on sick leave for 30 days or more since the inception of the Office.

Annual sick leave statistics are published on the Cabinet Office website in the "Analysis of Sickness Absence in the Civil Service", a copy of which has been placed in the Library.

CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

Exercise

Tom Brake: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what methodology his Department uses to assess progress towards the target of two million people becoming more active by 2012; what date is being used as the baseline for the target; to which age groups the target is applied; what criteria are used to decide whether a person has become more active; and whether the target is applied to people with *(a)* mental health problems, *(b)* physical disabilities and *(c)* learning disabilities. [266053]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The Government's 2012 Legacy Action Plan (LAP), published in June 2008, sets a cross-Government target to get 2 million more adults active through sport and physical activity by 2012. DCMS and Sport England lead on getting 1 million more people doing more sport. A range of Government departments will deliver programmes that will increase wider physical activity. Many of these programmes are outlined in the Department of Health's (DoH) new Physical Activity Plan "Be Active, Be Healthy" published on 11 February 2009.

Sport England's Active People survey will be the measure for the 2 million target. The baseline for the target will be established using the 2007-08 Active People survey, the results of which were published on 11 December 2008. The target is based on those adults aged 16 and over achieving three sessions of at least 30 minutes of at least moderate intensity activity per week. The target will also be informed by additional data collected on dance, active conservation and gardening from January 2009. A newly established Physical Activity Programme Board, chaired jointly by DoH and DCMS, will oversee the delivery of programmes against the LAP target.

The LAP target applies to all adults aged over 16. Both the Sport England Strategy and Be Active Be Healthy recognise that people with disabilities, ranging from physical and neurological to sensory impairments and learning disabilities are at particular risk from inactivity.

Sport England

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what guidance his Department has issued since 2001 to *(a)* Sport England and *(b)* national governing bodies on consulting other external organisations; and if he will make a statement. [263248]

Mr. Sutcliffe: My Department has not issued direct guidance to Sport England since 2001 on consulting external organisations. Sport England have advised that they did not issue formal guidance on consultation when engaging with national governing bodies in relation to their submission bids for funding. However as part of this funding process many national governing bodies consulted with a wide range of individuals and organisations relevant to their sport, including partners, registered members, clubs, coaches and volunteers, to help formulate and compile the final funding submission.

Reviewing these submissions, Sport England has involved the support of its key national partners, including SportscoachUK, SkillsActive, Volunteering England, The English Federation of Disability Sport, Sporting Equals, The National Association for Volunteer and Community Action (NAVCA) and the Women's Sport and Fitness Foundation to provide expert feedback and commentary upon each individual area of specialism.

In addition an external advisory panel whose purpose it was to check and challenge the overall funding process, including some of the key principles of the funding allocation, included external partners from UK Sport, Youth Sport Trust, local authorities, national governing bodies, Volunteering England, Central Council of Physical Recreation and ex-athletes (Dame Tanni Grey-Thompson and Jonathan Edwards).

TRANSPORT

A12: Colchester

Bob Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport when he expects work to start on the junction between the A12 and the Colchester Northern Approach Road; and if he will make a statement. [265896]

Paul Clark: Delivery of this scheme is related to planning conditions and is a matter for developers to take forward in line with plans for delivery of proposed housing, employment and leisure facilities in north Colchester. In view of this, a definite start date is not currently available but work is expected to start in 2009 subject to a detailed review of engineering issues and funding availability.

Airports: Security

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport pursuant to the answer of 18 March 2009, *Official Report*, column 1146W, on airports: security, if he will make it his policy that passengers concerned about the effects on health of body scanners using backscatter x-ray technology have the option of a manual pat search should such technology be introduced. [267164]

Jim Fitzpatrick: There are currently no plans to introduce back-scatter x-ray technology at UK airports. All security technology is assessed to ensure that it is fully compliant with health and safety legislation.

Driving: Diabetes

Mr. Bone: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will bring forward proposals to provide that people with insulin-treated diabetes may drive heavy goods vehicles following the approval of a medical practitioner. [267163]

Jim Fitzpatrick: Drivers with diabetes treated by insulin, who have good diabetic control and who have no significant diabetic complications may apply for consideration of a category C1 licence (goods vehicles between 3.5 and 7.5 tonnes). Applications must also be supported by a report from a medical practitioner specialising in the management of diabetes.

An amendment to the minimum health standard set out in the second European Commission directive is also currently progressing through the EC legislative process. The UK will then review its current medical standards and, in consultation with the expert members of the Secretary of State for Transport's honorary medical advisory panel on driving and diabetes, consider the implications of diabetes for driving and whether there should be a relaxation of the current standards. Legislation may then be amended to accommodate any changes.

Heathrow Airport

Justine Greening: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport pursuant to the answer of 17 March 2009, *Official Report*, column 987W, on Heathrow Airport, what the position was which was confirmed by advice to

Ministers in September 2007 and subsequently agreed to for the purposes of the Adding Capacity at Heathrow Airport public consultation; and if he will make a statement. [266648]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The hon. Member's previous questions related to air quality modelling results. The advice to Ministers in September 2007 confirmed the conclusions of the environmental assessment programme on the ability to meet noise and air quality limits if Heathrow was expanded. These conclusions were subsequently set out in the "Adding Capacity at Heathrow Airport" consultation document published in November 2007.

Heathrow Airport: Railways

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport pursuant to the oral statement of 15 January 2009, *Official Report*, columns 355-60, on transport infrastructure, whether the Network Rail site at Old Oak Common is among those locations being considered for the proposed Heathrow rail hub. [266430]

Paul Clark: "Britain's Transport Infrastructure: High Speed Two", published on 15 January and available on the Department for Transport's website and the Libraries of the House, sets out what we expect "High Speed Two" to deliver. The remit of the company is, inter alia, to consider and provide advice to the Government by the end of 2009 on options for a "Heathrow International" interchange station on the Great Western main line including an interchange with Crossrail.

High Speed Trains: West Midlands

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will instruct High Speed Trains Ltd. to include in the proposals for high speed rail links being developed for his Department the provision of a high speed link from the West Midlands to Manchester. [262939]

Paul Clark: High Speed Two was formed to develop the case for high speed services between London and Scotland. As a first stage it will report by the end of the year with a proposed route from London to the West Midlands, with any necessary options including for stations. It will also consider the potential for new lines to serve the North of England and Scotland.

In response to a letter dated 13 February from Sir David Rowlands, Chairman of High Speed Two, my noble Friend the Minister responsible for rail wrote to the company on 9 March setting out what the Government expect by the end of the year. Both letters are available in the Libraries of the House.

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what assessment he has made of the effects on *(a)* national gross domestic product and *(b)* the West Midlands economy of a high speed line from London to (i) Rugby and (ii) the centre of Birmingham. [262941]

Paul Clark: High Speed Two (HS2) Ltd. has been formed to develop the case for high speed services between London and Scotland.

As a first stage, the company is expected to bring forward proposals for Britain's second new high speed line, between London and the West Midlands, by the end of the year, and to consider the potential for new lines to serve the North of England and Scotland. This will need to include an appraisal of the environmental, planning, technological, capacity, value for money and funding issues.

In response to a letter dated 13 February from Sir David Rowlands, Chairman of High Speed Two, my noble Friend the Minister responsible for rail wrote to the company on 9 March setting out what the Government expect by the end of the year. Both letters are available in the Libraries of the House.

Opinion Leader Research

Mr. Baron: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how much his *(a)* Department and *(b)* its agencies have paid Opinion Leader Research in each year since November 2007. [266002]

Mr. Hoon *[holding answer 24 March 2009]:* No payments have been made by the Department for Transport to Opinion Leader Research Limited between 1 November 2007 and 23 March 2009.

Pedestrian Crossings

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether he plans to bring forward measures to enable local authorities to introduce countdown signs at pedestrian crossings. [266510]

Paul Clark: The Department for Transport has no plans to bring forward measures to enable local authorities to introduce countdown signs at pedestrian crossings.

However, Transport for London are discussing their plans for pedestrian countdown timers with the Department, and are researching various options before seeking our approval for on-street trials.

Performing Arts

John Mason: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether his Department has engaged any *(a)* actors, *(b)* musicians and *(c)* other performers to support its initiatives over the last five years. [264065]

Mr. Hoon: The Department for Transport has engaged actors, musicians and other performers over the last five years. Performers are typically engaged through third-party suppliers contracted to deliver marketing and education products or staff training.

Examples include the use of performers by the central Department for THINK! Road Safety and Act On CO_2 climate change commercials for radio, television and cinema as well as press, poster and online material. The Driving Standards Agency and Vehicle and Operator Services Agency have used performers in educational videos for young driver training and MOT testers respectively. The Highways Agency has used actors for role play in recruitment selection campaigns where this was considered beneficial and value for money. The Department has also used actors in role play exercises to aid learning and understanding in management development programmes and diversity awareness training, for example.

Central records do not identify the number and discipline of the performers engaged directly or indirectly by the Department and additional detail could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Railway Stations: Winchester

Mr. Oaten: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many train stations in Winchester constituency have been made accessible to wheelchair users in the last three years. [266069]

Paul Clark: No stations in the Winchester constituency have been made fully accessible within the last three years. Winchester station is set to benefit from a new obstacle-free accessible route in the period 2012-15 through the Government's Access for All programme. Micheldever, Shawford, Botley and Winchester stations have also been awarded more than £27,000 of Government funding through the Access for All Small Schemes programme towards over £65,000 of access improvements.

Railways

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what the average inter-city train speed was for each train operating company in each year since 1997. [264892]

Paul Clark: The Department for Transport does not hold information on average speeds by train operating company.

Stephen Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether High Speed Two Ltd has been instructed to produce proposals for high-speed rail links other than between London and the West Midlands; and whether the route between London and the West Midlands will carry freight rail services. [266351]

Paul Clark: High Speed Two has been formed to help develop the case for high speed services between London and Scotland.

My noble Friend the Minister of State (Lord Adonis) has written to Sir David Rowlands, Chairman of High Speed Two (HS2) setting out what the Government expect of the company. A copy of this letter is available in the Libraries of the House.

As a first stage, High Speed Two will report by the end of the year with a proposed route from London to the West Midlands, setting out any necessary options, including freight capability of a new line and how best to use the released capacity as a result of HS2 on existing lines for both passenger and freight. It will also consider the potential for new lines to serve the north of England and Scotland, providing advice on the potential development of a high speed line beyond the West Midlands, at the level of broad "corridors". We have asked the company to consider in particular the potential for HS2 to extend to the conurbations of Greater Manchester, West Yorkshire, the North East and Scotland.

Railways: Finance

Stephen Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport over what period his Department plans to allocate funding to High Speed Two; and from which budget. [265944]

Paul Clark: I refer the hon. Member to the answer of 23 March 2009, *Official Report*, column 6W.

Railways: Overcrowding

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether he plans to extend the passengers in excess of capacity measurement to include services which do not start or end in London. [262451]

Paul Clark: In line with the initiatives in the White Paper "Delivering a Sustainable Railway" to provide additional capacity through the High Level Output Specification (HLOS) on the rail network, the Department for Transport is currently developing measures to monitor passenger numbers in defined regional cities in England. This is based on count programmes instigated by the Department from late 2006 to ascertain passenger demand in defined regional cities.

In addition, all franchises let after 2004, including those outside London, contain capacity benchmarks against which the operators are measured.

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what methods his Department is considering to improve the accuracy of measurement of overcrowding on trains outside of London and the South East. [262933]

Paul Clark: The July 2007 White Paper, "Delivering a Sustainable Railway", sets out a capacity metric in a High Level Output Specification (HLOS). The Department for Transport is currently developing a process by which it will report levels of crowding and delivery of the HLOS capacity metric across franchised train operating companies (TOCs). This will involve gathering information on crowding levels during the morning peak in London and in other cities.

In addition, all franchises let after 2004, including those outside London, contain capacity benchmarks against which the operators are measured.

Railways: Standards

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how much compensation has been paid by Network Rail to train operating companies for delays in each year since 2000. [264893]

Paul Clark: The Department for Transport does not hold the information requested. This is an operational matter for Network Rail. The hon. Member should contact Network Rail's chief executive at the following address for a response to his question:

Iain Coucher
Chief Executive
Network Rail
Kings Place
90 York Way
London, N1 9AG.

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how much compensation has been paid to passengers by each train operating company for delays in each year since 2000. [264894]

Paul Clark: Information on compensation paid to passengers is not held by the Department for Transport. The hon. Member may wish to contact the individual companies for this information.

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what estimate he has made of the cost to business of *(a)* road and *(b)* rail congestion in the latest year for which figures are available. [264895]

Paul Clark: The Eddington Study, published in 2006, made use of analysis produced using the Department for Transport's national transport model. This study looked at the costs of additional road congestion, rather than the absolute costs of congestion. It estimated that the increase in time lost due to road congestion between 2003 and 2025 for business (including freight) would be worth £10 to £12 billion by 2025 in 2002 prices. This is a direct cost to the economy.

No estimate has been made by the Department of the costs of rail congestion on business, measured either in terms of crowding or reliability.

Mr. Ancram: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many incidents of train *(a)* delays and *(b)* cancellations as a result of snow and freezing conditions there have been since 19 December 2008. [265439]

Paul Clark: Information on the disruption of rail services, including incidents of train delays and cancellations as a result of snow and freezing conditions, is collected and processed by Network Rail. The right hon. and learned Member may wish to contact Network Rail for this information at the following address:

Iain Coucher
Chief Executive
Network Rail
Kings Place
York Way
London
N1 9AG.

Road Traffic: Road Works

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) what recent assessment his Department has made of the amount of congestion which is linked to street works in *(a)* England, *(b)* each region and *(c)* each London borough; [266424]

(2) what assessment his Department has made of the year-on-year change in the amount of congestion resulting from street works in *(a)* England, *(b)* each region and *(c)* each London borough in each of the last 11 years. [266427]

Paul Clark: In 2004, the third, and final, annual report commissioned by Department for Transport on the effectiveness of section 74 of New Roads and Street Works Act 1991 in reducing unnecessary disruption of the highway was completed. Using information provided by 25 highway authorities across England, an extrapolation was made that there were some 1.2 million street works (work[illegible] the highway by undertakers, mainly utility compa[illegible]s). The study also estimated that the impact on congestion in England could be valued at £4.3 billion each year. A copy of the report has been placed in the Libraries of the House.

The Department has commissioned further research to study the adoption of new street work powers introduced through the Traffic Management Act 2004. This is expected to report in 2010.

Road Traffic: Traffic Lights

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what assessment he has made of the effect of re-phasing traffic lights on levels of congestion in *(a)* England, *(b)* each region and *(c)* each London borough in each of the last 11 years. [266429]

Paul Clark: The Department for Transport has made no national or regional assessment of the effect on congestion of re-phasing traffic signals.

Road Works

Mr. Hollobone: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport when he expects the first local authority road works permitting scheme to be established under the provisions of the Traffic Management Act 2004; and where he expects it to be established. [266044]

Paul Clark *[holding answer 24 March 2009]*: Applications to operate permit schemes have been received from Transport for London and 14 London boroughs for a London Common Permit scheme and from Kent county council for the Secretary of State's approval. The Kent application is currently being considered by officials in the Department for Transport. The applicant authorities for the London Common Permit scheme have, following an interim response from the Department, decided to carry out a further consultation—due to close on 5 June—before resubmitting the application. It is not possible at this stage to predict either the outcome of an application or, if successful, when a permit scheme may come into force.

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether he has met representatives of utility companies to discuss street works since his appointment. [266309]

Paul Clark: The Secretary of State for Transport has not met representatives of utility companies to discuss street works. However, I had a meeting on 25 March with the National Joint Utilities Group (NJUG), which represents water and energy utility companies, as well as some telecoms companies, to discuss street works. I also spoke at NJUG's parliamentary reception and award ceremony in December 2008.

Road Works: Fixed Penalties

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) how much was paid in fixed penalty notices for street works issued under the provision of regulations in the Traffic Management Act 2004 in *(a)* each English region and *(b)* each London borough in each of the last three years; [266511]

(2) how many fixed penalty notices for street works have been issued under the provision of regulations in the Traffic Management Act 2004 in *(a)* each English region and *(b)* each London borough in each of the last three years. [266512]

Paul Clark: The powers to use fixed penalty notices (FPNs), as an alternative to prosecution, for certain offences under the New Roads and Street Works Act 1991 were brought into force on 12 May 2008.

The Department for Transport does not hold or collect information on either the number of FPNs given or the amount paid.

Roads: Accidents

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many deaths there were resulting from traffic related incidents in 30 miles per hour zones in *(a)* Castle Point and *(b)* Essex in each of the last five years; and if he will make a statement. [267052]

Jim Fitzpatrick: Numbers of fatalities resulting from reported personal injury road accidents on roads with a 30 mph speed limit in *(a)* Castle Point and *(b)* Essex in each of the last five years are given in the following table:

	Number of fatalities	
	(a) Castle Point	*(b) Essex*
2003	2	32
2004	1	23
2005	0	20
2006	1	24
2007	2	21

Rolling Stock

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport pursuant to the statement of 12 February 2009, *Official Report*, columns 1531-44, on new trains (investment), how many of the 12,500 long-term jobs he estimates will be created or safeguarded by the contract to re-equip the East Coast and Great Western Main Lines with new inter-city express trains will be in *(a)* train maintenance and *(b)* the supply chain. [265031]

Paul Clark: Agility Trains anticipates that of the estimated 12,500 total jobs to be created or safeguarded, 2,500 will be directly employed by the Agility Trains consortium. Of these, an estimated 1,400 jobs will be safeguarded in train maintenance, and an estimated 1,100 jobs will be created in train and factory construction.

Of the remaining estimated 10,000 jobs, Agility Trains anticipates that they are likely to be within train vehicle component suppliers, third party suppliers and the wider economy.

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport pursuant to the statement of 12 February 2009, *Official Report*, columns 1531-44, on new trains (investment), how much he expects to be invested in the UK by Agility Trains following the award of the contract. [265032]

Paul Clark: Agility Trains has stated publicly that it is committed to spending 70 per cent. of the contract value in the UK.

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport pursuant to the statement of 12 February 2009, *Official Report*, columns 1531-44, on new trains (investment), what discussions he has had with Agility Trains on *(a)* the proposed sites for the new maintenance depots and *(b)* upgrades to existing maintenance depots following the award of the contract. [265033]

Paul Clark: The Department for Transport facilitated visits to existing Network Rail depots for all bidders during early 2008. Dialogue regarding the bidders' depots and maintenance proposals continued with both Agility Trains and Express Rail Alliance throughout the bidding process, up to the selection of Preferred Bidder. Further dialogue with Agility Trains, the Preferred Bidder, will continue until the award of the contract.

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport pursuant to the statement of 12 February 2009, *Official Report*, columns 1531-44, on new trains (investment), whether the *(a)* body shells, *(b)* engines and *(c)* bogies for the contract to supply new inter-city express trains are to be manufactured in the UK. [265035]

Paul Clark: Agility Trains has said that the body shells for the new trains will initially be made in Japan using Hitachi's friction stir-welding technique. The Department for Transport anticipates that Agility Trains will establish facilities for friction on stir-welding in the UK as soon as practicable following contract award. The company is yet to announce the source country for either the engines or the bogies for the new trains, but has committed to spend 70 per cent. of the Super Express Trains contract value in the UK.

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport pursuant to the statement of 12 February 2009, *Official Report*, columns 1531-44, on new trains (investment), whether an environmental impact assessment was made of the specifications for the supply of new inter-city express trains contained in bids submitted by *(a)* Agility Trains and *(b)* Bombardier Trains. [265036]

Paul Clark: The delivery of an environmentally sustainable solution for the Intercity Express Programme is a key objective for the Department for Transport (see section 1.2 of the Invitation to Tender). The technical appraisal of the Concept Train Design, from both Agility Trains and Express Rail Alliance, included an assessment of the environmental considerations defined by sections 3.6-3.9 (inclusive) of the Train Technical Specification and section 7.1.2 of the Invitation to Tender.

Both the Invitation to Tender and the Train Service Specification can be accessed via:

http://www.dft.gov.uk/pgr/rail/pi/iep/iepinvitationtotender/

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport pursuant to the statement of 12 February 2009, *Official Report*, columns 1531-44, on new trains (investment), when he expects Agility Trains to establish facilities for friction stir welding. [265037]

Paul Clark: The Department for Transport anticipates that Agility Trains will establish facilities for friction stir-welding in the UK as soon as practicable following contract award.

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport pursuant to the statement of 12 February 2009, *Official Report*, columns 1531-44, on new trains (investment), if he will make representations to his Japanese counterpart on the market access for the export of trains and rolling stock to Japan. [265038]

Paul Clark: The European Commission has highlighted the difficulties of entry for non-Japanese companies into the Japanese rail market. The Foreign Office continues to work with the European Commission—which is taking the lead in this area—to raise the issue of barriers to market entry with the Japanese government.

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport pursuant to the statement of 12 February 2009, *Official Report*, columns 1531-44, on new trains (investment), how many UK-based suppliers he estimates will benefit indirectly from the contract with Agility Trains. [265039]

Paul Clark: Agility Trains announced on 12 February that it was in advanced discussions with 20 UK-based suppliers. Since then, the company has put out a call for further interested suppliers, which can be found on their website at

www.agilitytrains.com

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport pursuant to the statement of 12 February 2009, *Official Report*, columns 1531-44, on new trains (investment), when he expects to announce the location of the new train assembly and manufacturing facility to be established by Agility Trains following the award of the contract. [265040]

Paul Clark: The announcement of the location of the site is expected to be made by Agility Trains following contract award later this year.

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport pursuant to the statement of 12 February 2009, *Official Report*, columns 1531-44, on new trains (investment), whether production of the new inter-city express trains in the UK will be at *(a)* a manufacturing facility and *(b)* an assembly facility. [265054]

Paul Clark: The production of the new Super Express trains will be in a UK manufacturing facility.

Surveys

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport pursuant to the answer of 10 March 2009, *Official Report*, column 362W, on departmental surveys, if he will place in the Library a copy of the results of the 2008 staff survey undertaken by his Department. [263734]

Mr. Hoon: Staff surveys are valuable tools used by Departments to help them improve performance. The results of the most recent survey of the central Department for Transport are available on the Civil Service website at:

http://beta.civilservice.gov.uk/about/who/statistics/staff-surveys.aspx

Traffic Lights

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) how many traffic lights there are on public roads in *(a)* England, *(b)* each region and *(c)* each London borough; [266423]

(2) what increase in the number of traffic lights on public roads there has been in *(a)* England, *(b)* each region and *(c)* each London borough in each of the last 10 years. [266425]

Paul Clark: This information is not held centrally. The Department for Transport does not collect information on the numbers of traffic signals in use in the UK.

Transport: Coastal Areas

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what steps the Government is taking to improve transport links to seaside resorts. [265490]

Paul Clark: Transport relating to seaside resorts in Wales is a matter for the Welsh Assembly government.

When determining funding for transport schemes in England, the Department does not explicitly take into consideration the fact that a settlement is a seaside town. The Government take a wide range of factors into account—including regeneration benefits—in the economic assessment of a scheme's benefits.

In recent years they have funded a number of local authority projects that improve links to seaside resorts. These include the Scarborough Integrated Transport Scheme and the A158 Burgh-Le-Marsh Bypass, which serves Skegness.

A further 13 projects that will improve transport links to seaside towns in England have funding allocated in the Regional Funding Allocation programme. These schemes are at various stages of development and should be completed between now and 2019, subject to meeting the Department's business case requirements.

As well as funding from the Regional Funding Allocation, local transport authorities are able to target resources, according to local needs and priorities, from their Revenue Support Grant and Rural Bus Subsidy Grant allocations to improve transport links to seaside resorts in their area.

A number of rail lines serving seaside resorts have benefited from the joint working of local authorities and the railway industry through community rail partnerships.

Transport: Expenditure

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what proportion of his Department's spending related to projects intended to encourage *(a)* cycling and *(b)* bus use in the last 12 months. [266431]

Mr. Hoon: Overall spending in 2008-09 is forecast to be £18,101 million. Of this the Department for Transport has earmarked £20 million specifically for cycling schemes (which is 0.1 per cent. of the overall budget). Spending on encouraging bus use (including Bus Service Operators

Grant, Concessionary Fares and other items) was £703.5 million, which corresponds to 3.9 per cent. of overall spend.

In addition expenditure such as Sustainable Travel and Integrated Transport grants amounted to £3,927.1 million (21.7 per cent.). This incorporates an element for encouraging cycling and bus use that cannot be separately identified.

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Agriculture: Subsidies

Tim Farron: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what targets his Department has set in relation to the time taken for processing applications for funding under those components of the Rural Development Programme England which are administered by regional development agencies. [264216]

Huw Irranca-Davies: Details of Rural Development Programme for England processing targets are being discussed with Regional Development Agencies (RDAs) as part of a review of existing service level agreements between DEFRA, RDAs and the Rural Payments Agency.

Tim Farron: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much funding he expects to be allocated in grants made under the Rural Development Programme England in 2009. [264217]

Huw Irranca-Davies: DEFRA manages its finances on a financial year basis (1 April to 31 March). DEFRA expects to spend £417 million on grants under the Rural Development Programme for England in 2008-09. We are currently budgeting to spend £550 million under the programme in 2009-10.

Tim Farron: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if he will bring forward proposals to simplify the application process for allocation of funds under the Rural Development Programme England. [264219]

Huw Irranca-Davies: The Rural Development Programme for England (RDPE) is still at a relatively early stage of implementation and we are keeping all processes under review with delivery bodies. The general approach to applications is designed to meet the requirements of EU and national regulations and, where appropriate, tailored to meet regional needs. Natural England is currently reviewing the way it allocates funds to applicants to environmental stewardship as part of a scheme efficiencies project. Application processes will be formally considered as part of the RDPE mid-term evaluation.

Tim Farron: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent assessment his Department has made of the effectiveness of the mechanisms by which grants are awarded to applicants under Axis 1 and Axis 3 of the Rural Development Programme England. [264218]

Huw Irranca-Davies: DEFRA officials meet regularly with the Regional Development Agencies which are responsible for awarding grants under Axis 1 and Axis 3 of the Rural Development Programme for England where the effectiveness of their delivery mechanisms are reviewed.

Beavers

Mr. Ancram: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what his policy is on the reintroduction of beavers into the wild. [265482]

Huw Irranca-Davies: The Labour rural manifesto of 2005 said that a Labour Government would support the reintroduction of former native species if justified on environmental and sustainability grounds. However the Government are also committed to conserving our existing native species and habitats and it is important to use our resources wisely for this purpose. Any proposal to reintroduce formerly native species would therefore have to be very carefully considered.

I am aware that the Scottish Executive issued a licence for a trial reintroduction of beavers late in 2008 and that in Wales a feasibility study on reintroduction is currently under way. In England, the results of a joint scientific study into the desirability and feasibility of reintroducing the European beaver to the English countryside were published on 18 March 2009 by Natural England and the People's Trust for Endangered Species. Natural England jointly commissioned the study in order to better prepare itself for the possibility of a licence application to release beavers in England. The report identifies a number of benefits associated with the reintroduction of beavers. It also highlights a number of issues that we would expect to be thoroughly addressed before Natural England considered licensing a reintroduction programme.

We would expect Natural England to take account of the applicable International Union for Conservation of Nature guidelines, to consider the views of interested parties and in particular to be satisfied that the reintroduction would not have a significant adverse impact on natural or semi-natural habitats, native wildlife or socio-economic interests and that measures could be put in place to deal with any unforeseen problems, should they occur.

Bluetongue Disease: Vaccination

Mr. Roger Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what percentage of livestock farmers in each region who have vaccinated their livestock against bluetongue disease; and if he will make a statement. [263902]

Jane Kennedy: Vaccination in England and Wales for BTV8 is voluntary. This approach gives farmers the opportunity to judge for themselves the benefits of vaccinating. Experience in 2008 suggests that a majority of farmers do see the benefits of vaccination. A voluntary programme therefore enables these farmers to protect their livestock at the minimum possible cost.

We monitor uptake through sales data; farmers are not required to notify us of vaccination due to the additional burdens and costs this would involve. During 2008 overall level of uptake across England was 60 per cent., or 16 million doses sold.

Region	*Percentage uptake*[1]
South of England	94
South East	>95
South West	83
East Midlands	73
West Midlands	53
Yorkshire and the Humber	42
North West	27
North East	26

[1] Approximately, according to sales data.

Vaccination played a vital role in keeping us free from circulating BTV8 disease last year. If adequate vaccination levels are not reached this year, and BTV8 is reintroduced, the disease will spread to unvaccinated animals. The disease is still present and circulating in neighbouring EU member states. Farmers and livestock keepers should not become complacent and should vaccinate their animals for BTV8 as soon as possible.

Deer

Mr. Ancram: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if he will make an estimate of changes in the roe deer population in the last five years. [265144]

Huw Irranca-Davies: In 2005 the Tracking Mammals Partnership reported that observations on roe deer made by British Trust for Ornithology volunteers undertaking the Breeding Bird Survey increased by 56 per cent. between 1995 and 2005. The Game and Wildlife Conservation Trust National Gamebag Census records for roe deer increased by 34.1 per cent. between 1995 and 2003. However, it is not certain how well these observations correspond to changes in abundance.

Recent extrapolated estimates of national abundance of roe deer in England by the Central Science Laboratory, the Deer Initiative and the British Association for Shooting and Conservation range between 90,000 and 324,000, but it is not possible to conclude which of these is most accurate because surveys of deer abundance are not conducted nationally or regionally. However, the British Deer Society collects national deer distribution data on a five-yearly cycle. Analysis of their latest results, by the Central Science Laboratory, suggests that roe deer may have expanded their national range by 5.2 per cent. between 2002 and 2007.

Departmental Bank Services

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs with which banks his Department has or has had contracts for the provision of financial advice, for the financial year 2008-09. [262760]

Huw Irranca-Davies: In the financial year 2008-09, the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs has not held any contracts for the provision of financial advice with any bank.

Departmental Electricity Generation

Simon Hughes: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what *(a)* capital and *(b)* maintenance expenditure his Department has incurred on standby diesel generators for back-up electricity supply of his Department's estate in each year since March 1997. [266410]

Huw Irranca-Davies *[holding answer 25 March 2009]*: The Department does not hold records of capital spend prior to 2002, and there has been no such expenditure on stand-by generators for the period April 2002 to March 2009.

The total expenditure on maintenance of stand-by generators for the period April 1997 to March 2009 is £52,500. We are unable to provide an annual breakdown of this figure.

Departmental Public Consultation

Mr. Vara: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many public consultations his Department has conducted in the last 12 months; how long each consultation was open for; how many responses were received in each case; and what the cost of conducting each consultation was. [259576]

Huw Irranca-Davies: DEFRA has conducted 81 consultations over the last 12 months. Details are set out in the following table. Details of the costs of the consultations are not available and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Consultation title	*Duration of consultation (Weeks)*	*Number of responses received to each consultation*
Consultation on proposal of 2 per cent. milk quotas	5-6	16
Consultation on national listing and plant breeders' right fees	12	11
Consultation on Surface Water Management	12	148
Consultation on guidance to Ofwat	12	43
Consultation on phosphates in detergents-laundry	12	24
Consultation on sustainable products (published on Market Transformation programme website)	12	19
Consultation on charging for CITES licences	12	58
Consultation on the future of the Aggregates Levy Sustainability fund April 2008 to March 2011	12	78
Consultation on river basin planning (volume)	12	46
Consultation on the transposition of Council Directive 2006/117/Euratom	12	9
Consultation on Implementation of Fruit and Vegetable Reforms	12	12
Consultation on Environmental Liability Directive: 2nd consultation	12	67
Consultation on European Fisheries Fund: UK Operational programme (1st phase)	4	36
Consultation on Fal and Helford	6	19

Consultation title	*Duration of consultation (Weeks)*	*Number of responses received to each consultation*
Consultation on Statutory Notification requirements for potatoes introduced into England and Wales from other EU member states	12	3
Consultation on joint Waste Authorities	12	84
Consultation on Producer Responsibility Obligations (Packaging Waste) Regulations 2007; Directive 2004/12/EC (amending Directive 94/62/EC on packaging and packaging waste)	8	499
Consultation on the remaking of the Drinking Milk regulations	5	1
Consultation on Soil Strategy for England	12	64
Consultation on TSE Regulations 2007	12	10
Consultation draft Marine Bill	12	1,899
Consultation on the strategy of health of honey bees	12	86
Consultation on European Fisheries Fund: UK Operational programme (2nd phase)	8	72
Consultation on the EU Commission's proposals to amend the EU ETS from 2013	12	94
Consultation on the remaking of Eggs and Chicks (England) Regulations 2008	2	0
Consultation on draft AQEG report: Ozone in the United Kingdom	12	8
Consultation on EPAQS report: guidelines for metals and metalloids in ambient air for the protection of human health	12	3
Consultation on EPAQS report: Addendum to Guidelines for halogen and hydrogen halides in ambient air for protecting human health against acute irritancy effects	12	3
Consultation on groundwater regulations	12	31
Consultation on the European Commission's proposed Directive on Industrial Emissions (Integrated Pollution Prevention and Control) (Recast)—Intensive livestock	8	29
Consultation on the European Commission's proposed Directive on Industrial Emissions (Integrated Pollution Prevention and Control) (Recast)	8	50
Consultation on the European Commission's proposed Directive on Industrial Emissions (Integrated Pollution Prevention and Control)(Recast)—Combustion Plants	8	36
Consultation on REACH Enforcement	12	23
Consultation on Dangerous Wild Animals Act 1976—reform order	12	44
Consultation on the European Commission's proposed Directive on Industrial Emissions (Integrated Pollution Prevention and Control)(Recast)—emissions	12	23
Consultation on CAP health checks	12	100
Consultation on Wine SI 2008	4	3
Consultation on Sector Guidance Note SG8: Rendering	8	4
A second consultation on the controls on the handling, transfer and transport of waste	12	122
Consultation on White Paper—Radioactive Waste—published on homepages	12	181
Consultation on revised UK Strategy for Radioactive W[illegible] and Consultation on Discharge Limits 2006-30	12	UK Strategy 9
		Discharge limits 21
Consultation on Revised Membership Arrangements for Northumberland National Park Authority	12	13
Consultation on Wildlife Management strategy	12	46
Consultation on Our Seas—a shared resource	12	84
Consultation on The Beef and Veal Labelling Regulations 2008 (England)	12	5
Consultation on air quality guidance	12	20
Consultation on f gases and ozone	12	99
Consultation on Phytopthora Ramorem and Phytophthora kernoviae	12	41
Consultation on DEFRA's Contingency Plan 2008	12	29
Consultation on Gangmasters Licensing (Exclusions) regulations	12	39
Consultation on changes to the Local Government Act 1972 to allow local authorities in England to work together on animal health	12	10
Consultation on a Code of Practice for the sustainable use of soils on construction sites	12	23
Consultation on Direct Elections to National Park Authorities	12	496
Consultation on flood resilience	12	57
Consultation on flooding, coastal erosion management	12	47
Consultation on review of waste exemptions	12	205
Consultation on plans to meet EU air quality limit values	12	2
Consultation on the English inshore fleet—looking to the future	12	206
Consultation on private water supplies	12	105
Consultation on aviation action plans	12	86
Consultation on VMD	12	58
Consultation on common land councils	12	49
Consultation on Recycling Service guidance	12	26
Consultation on NCP Broiler flocks regulations	12	15
Consultation on LA Environmental Regulation of Industrial plant 2009-10 fees and charges	12	26
Consultation on the Conservation Varieties	12	14
Consultation on direction to the EA on classification of water bodies	12	17
Consultation on carbon accounting regulations	12	43
Consultation on proposed changes to BSE testing	4	20

Consultation title	*Duration of consultation (Weeks)*	*Number of responses received to each consultation*
Consultation on code of practice on cat, dog and equidae	12	Cat 79 Dog 136 Equidae 36
Consultation on revision of our swine vesicular disease legislation	12	11
Consultation on the code of practice for animal feeds	12	14
Consultation on the equine ID	12	72
Consultation on animal by-products regulations	12	59
Consultation on hazardous waste regulations	12	69
Consultation on the Better Regulation review and 6-year review	12	Better regulation 41 6-year review 27
Consultation on School Milk	12	17
Consultation on Marine Works (amendment to regulations)	12	29
Consultation on the Rules of court for the water and sewerage special administration regime (consultation ends 20 March 2009)	12	[1]0
Consultation on National Flood Emergency framework (consultation ends 27 March 2009)	12	[1]2
Consultation on Water Protection Zones (consultation ends 31 March 2009)	12	[1]0
DEFRA/BERR joint Consultation on Batteries Directive—draft regulations—published on BERR website to date to date	12	128

[1] To date

Dogs

Stephen Hesford: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what guidance his Department has issued to police and local authorities on the law on dangerous dogs in the last 12 months; and if he will make a statement. [264620]

Jane Kennedy: We have not issued guidance to enforcers on the law on dangerous dogs since the 2003 guidance was issued. We are planning to release updated guidance shortly.

Dogs: Licensing

Mr. Garnier: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs whether he plans to reintroduce dog licences; and if he will make a statement. [265523]

Jane Kennedy *[holding answer 23 March 2009]*: DEFRA has no plans to reintroduce mandatory dog licences.

The dog licence was repealed by the Local Government Act 1988 because it cost more to administer than the revenue it generated and because it was estimated that only 44 per cent. of dog owners bought a licence. DEFRA supports voluntary identification, whereby dog owners voluntarily undertake to have their pets permanently identified and registered on nationwide databases.

Farms: Bio-security

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps his Department is taking to improve bio-security on farms. [265330]

Jane Kennedy: It is the livestock keeper's responsibility and it is in their interests to practise good husbandry and biosecurity procedures in order to minimise the risk of disease and the economic impacts on reduced productivity.

The Government work in partnership with industry to raise awareness of and promote good husbandry and biosecurity practice. This includes buying in healthy stock, providing clean food and water, maintaining good standards of hygiene, separation/isolation of new or ill stock, traceability and proper record keeping.

Encouraging and incentivising livestock keepers to implement good biosecurity on the ground is part of the work currently being taken forward with industry as part of the Responsibility and Cost sharing programme of work. This includes DEFRA's 'Give Disease the Boot' campaign promoted through Livestock Market Roadshows and the Farm Health Planning Initiative. This initiative is about livestock owners working closely with their vet or other adviser on setting targets for their animals' health and welfare and taking steps to measure, manage and monitor productivity.

Flood Control

Simon Hughes: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Stafford of 20 January 2009, *Official Report*, column 1286W, on the Floods and Water Bill, when he expects to publish the draft Floods and Water Bill. [265880]

Huw Irranca-Davies: I refer the hon. Member for North Southwark and Bermondsey to my reply of 9 December 2008, *Official Report*, column 39W.

Floods: Property Development

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if he will make it his policy to increase the restrictions on development in flood risk areas; and if he will make a statement. [266795]

Huw Irranca-Davies: Planning policy is the responsibility of the Department for Communities and Local Government, and my Department has worked closely with them to ensure that the planning system properly takes account of the risks from all sources of flooding.

Planning Policy Statement 25 (PPS25), "Development and Flood Risk", provides the policy framework for local planning authorities to avoid, manage and reduce flood risk to new development. This is supported by the Practice Guide published in June 2008 to assist local planners in implementing PPS25 policy. In his Review of the summer 2007 floods, Sir Michael Pitt agreed that current policy in PPS25 was right, but that it should be rigorously applied by local authorities. The Government are continuing to work closely with local authorities, the Environment Agency and other stakeholders to ensure that the policy approach in PPS25 is properly implemented and delivered on the ground.

Floods: Slapton

Mr. Steen: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs which organisations are represented in the Slapton Line Partnership; what progress has been made on the Slapton Line project since January 2007; what proportion of the funds allocated by his Department to the project have been spent to date; what the primary areas of expenditure have been; what lessons have been learnt from the project on coastal erosion and flood defences; what evidence of coastal erosion at Slapton has been identified during the project; and if he will make a statement. [264258]

Huw Irranca-Davies *[holding answer 23 March 2009]*: The organisations which are represented in the Slapton Line Partnership consist of the Partnership Steering Group and an advisory group.

The Partnership Steering Group meets quarterly and comprises of Devon County Council, South Hams District Council, Natural England, the Environment Agency, Slapton Ley Field Centre and South Devon Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty unit.

The Advisory Group meets twice a year and has representatives from Slapton Parish Council, Strete Parish Council, Stokenham Parish Council, East Allington Parish Council, HM Coastguard, Coleridge Association, Slapton Line Defence Group, Whitley Wildlife Conservation Trust, and the Strete Estate. The advisory group is open to public attendance.

The project programme is driven by the adaptation plan first developed at a community planning event held in 2006. Work undertaken so far includes support for local small business, improved communication with local residents, the 'Celebrate Start Bay' event, replenishing shingle bastions, contingency planning and alternative route development.

60 per cent. of the grant from DEFRA's flood and coastal risk management innovation fund has been spent or committed so far. The primary areas of expenditure are business (including tourism), support and communications, contingency planning and beach monitoring.

The project is primarily focused on assisting the local community in anticipating and adapting to coastal changes.

Contingency preparation for the road closure could have created a negative image for a tourism area. A more positive long-term future has been developed by working with local businesses which includes promoting Start Bay as a tourism destination.

Shingle beach experts at Plymouth university are advising the Partnership on the planning and orientation of the shingle bastions. A full report will be produced at the conclusion of the project at the end of March 2010.

Monitoring shows that the beach has continued to vary dramatically following easterly storm events with a general steepening. The crest is largely static and no major erosion events have taken place since 2001. Long-term measurements have suggested an average erosion rate of 0.3m/year.

Horses: Databases

Mr. Paice: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps his Department is taking in respect of equines for which the owners do not hold passports. [265584]

Jane Kennedy *[holding answer 23 March 2009]*: The current horse passports regime is enforced by local authorities and the Meat Hygiene Service. When the new EU equine identification legislation is introduced in July we propose to expand the enforcement bodies to include Animal Health Officers who will perform checks on farms and yards.

Mr. Paice: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what mechanism there is to establish that an applicant for a horse passport is the legal owner of the animal. [265585]

Jane Kennedy *[holding answer 23 March 2009]*: Horse passports are not ownership documents, but are intended to identify the horse and record veterinary medicines. Individual passport-issuing organisations set their own rules on what ownership documentation, if any, needs to be provided as part of a passport application.

Mr. Paice: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what checks on equines presented for slaughter are undertaken to establish that the person presenting the animal *(a)* is its legal owner and *(b)* holds a valid passport for the animal. [265586]

Jane Kennedy *[holding answer 23 March 2009]*: The Meat Hygiene Service enforces the horse passports regulations at slaughterhouses. The Official Veterinarian is required to check that the horse presented for slaughter has a valid passport that matches the animal. Checks are also performed to ensure the passport is completed correctly and the horse is eligible for entry into the food chain. There is no requirement to establish that the person presenting the horse is the legal owner.

Lighting: Health Hazards

Mr. Carmichael: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs whether he has considered the merits of introducing health warnings on the packaging of energy saving light bulbs. [265522]

Dawn Primarolo: I have been asked to reply.

The Health Protection Agency has issued precautionary advice to the public concerning the use of open compact fluorescent lamps (CFLs) in certain close-working situations and on disposal of CFLs on their website at:

www.hpa.org.uk/servlet/Satellite?c=Page&childpagename=
HPAweb%2FPage%2FHPAwebAutoListName&cid=
1153999752025&p=1153999752025&pagename=HPAweb
Wrapper&searchmode=simple& searchterm=CFLs&go=Go

The Department for the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs also has advice on its website concerning mercury and the disposal of CFLs at:

www.defra.gov.uk/environment/climatechange/uk/household/products/cfl.htm

European regulations will require manufacturers to provide information on disposal and what to do if a lamp breaks, in terms of mercury, on the packaging from 2010.

The Department of Health is continuing to work with patient groups, clinicians and the lighting industry to keep health issues under review. The Department has no plans at present for additional health advice regarding energy saving light bulbs for the public at large.

Some support groups for people with certain light sensitive skin, autoimmune and neurological conditions have raised concerns that some low energy light bulbs, particularly CFLs, could aggravate light sensitivity symptoms.

Litter: Fines

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what average fine was imposed for littering offences in England in each of the last three years. [264861]

Huw Irranca-Davies: Fixed penalty notice fines for littering can range between £50 and £80 with local authorities able to offer the lower figure for immediate payment.

In 2006-07 a total of 43,624 fines for littering were issued with a payment rate of over 60 per cent. drawing in a total of £1,521,905—an average of £57 per fixed penalty notice.

In 2005-06 a total of 33,033 fines for littering were issued with a payment rate of over 54 per cent. drawing in a total of £911,813—an average of £51 per fixed penalty notice.

Data for 2007-08 will become available later this year.

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what average fine has been issued as a fixed penalty notice under the Clean Neighbourhoods and Environment Act 2005 by *(a)* Kensington and Chelsea, *(b)* Westminster, *(c)* Liverpool, *(d)* City of York and *(e)* Doncaster local authorities were in the last 12 months. [264862]

Huw Irranca-Davies: The average fine issued under the Clean Neighbourhoods and Environment Act 2005 by *(a)* Kensington and Chelsea, *(b)* Westminster, *(c)* Liverpool, *(d)* City of York and *(e)* Doncaster in 2006-07 is listed in the following table. Data for 2007-08 will become available later this year.

Local authority	*Number of fines paid*	*Amount received (£)*	*Average fine (£)*
Kensington and Chelsea	323	16,150	50
Westminster	968	50,230	51.89
Liverpool	246	17,950	72.97
City of York	6	325	54.16
Doncaster	81	6,390	78.89

Mr. Newmark: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many fixed penalty fines for litter offences were issued by each local authority in England in *(a)* 2007 and *(b)* 2008. [264444]

Huw Irranca-Davies: Data on the number of fixed penalty notices issued for environmental offences by, or on behalf of, each local authority in England can be found on the DEFRA website. Figures for 2008 will be available later this year.

The total number of fixed penalty fines issued for litter offences by local authorities in England from April 2006 to March 2007 was 43,624.

Litter: NGOs

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) what recent discussions he has had with non-governmental organisations which have objectives to reduce littering; [264859]

(2) what recent representations he has received on levels of litter. [264860]

Huw Irranca-Davies: My noble Friend Lord Hunt of King's Heath, who leads on these issues, met last week with representatives of ENCAMS (also known as Keep Britain Tidy) DEFRA's delivery partner which campaigns on litter, and provides research and technical advice to Government. He addressed an audience of local authority officers and other land managers at the Cleaner, Safer, Greener Network Conference in Brighton last week where he launched the latest local environment quality survey of England.

My noble Friend Lord Hunt has also met recently with representatives of the Campaign to Protect Rural England to discuss their 'Stop the Drop' campaign and their recent report on littering.

Members: Correspondence

Sir Michael Spicer: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs when the Minister of State for Farming and the Environment plans to reply to the letter from the hon. Member for West Worcestershire, dated 3 February 2009, on a ban on the use of glue traps. [264878]

Jane Kennedy *[holding answer 20 March 2009]:* I have on the 24 March 2009 responded to the hon. Member's letter about the use of glue traps.

Sir Michael Spicer: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs when he plans to reply to the letter from the hon. Member for West Worcestershire, of 26 January 2009, on emergency response to flooding. [265573]

Huw Irranca-Davies *[holding answer 23 March 2009]:* A reply was sent to the hon. Member on 28 February 2009.

Performing Arts

John Mason: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs whether his Department has engaged any *(a)* actors, *(b)* musicians and *(c)* other performers to support its initiatives over the last five years. [264061]

Huw Irranca-Davies: The Department's record/financial systems are not able to identify this information within the disproportionate cost threshold.

Poultry: EC Law

Mr. Paice: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) what steps his Department is taking to implement European Council Directive 99/74EC prohibiting the use of conventional cages for laying hens; [264767]

(2) what recent reports he has received of the timetable in EU member states for the implementation of European Council Directive 99/74/EC on the prohibition of conventional cages for laying hens. [265683]

Jane Kennedy: Directive 1999/74/EC of 19 July 1999 lays down minimum standards for the protection of laying hens, one of the provisions of which is a ban on conventional cages for laying hens by 1 January 2012. It was implemented in England by regulations made on 24 June 2002 and by similar legislation in Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland. All Member states have implemented the directive. We have received no recent reports from other member states but the Commission's report of January 2008 recommended that the 2012 deadline for an EU-wide ban on the use of conventional cages be maintained and the Government remain committed to this deadline.

Rabbits

Mr. Ancram: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment he has made of levels of rabbit damage in the last five years. [265484]

Huw Irranca-Davies: No assessments have been made of the levels of rabbit damage in the last five years. The last published estimate, in 2002, was around £115million of damage to agriculture in GB annually.

Recreation Spaces: Urban Areas

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs which pieces of land have been registered as a town green under the Commons Act 2006. [264922]

Huw Irranca-Davies: This information is not held centrally or by DEFRA, but by each individual Commons Registration Authority.

Rural Development Programme

Mr. Paice: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what formal notifications and requests for revisions have been made in accordance with Articles 6-12 of Council Regulation 1974/2006 to amend the Rural Development Programme for England; and how many opportunities to notify the Commission of amendments remain in the programming period. [264749]

Huw Irranca-Davies: We have asked the European Commission to consider two amendments to the Rural Development Programme for England (RDPE) 2007-13 since it was approved in December 2007.

The first notification of a proposal to amend the programme was made in October 2008, principally to put in place a number of changes to our agri-environment scheme, Environmental Stewardship (ES), recommended by the ES Review of Progress, which was published in May 2008. A second notification was made in February 2009 and was made to put in place the changes to provide support for the uplands, as announced by the Secretary of State in December 2008, make additional ES options available for farmers in the Isles of Scilly, and to update the programme's state aid provisions. Neither of these amendments has yet been approved by the Commission.

The implementing rules (Commission Regulation (EC) No 1975/2006) allow us to propose up to four revisions to our programme in each calendar year until the programming period concludes at the end of 2013.

Tilbury Marshes

Andrew Mackinlay: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what his Department has *(a)* commissioned and *(b)* evaluated on the flora and fauna of Tilbury marshes; what assessment he has made of the scientific value of the marshes; and if he will make a statement. [266172]

Huw Irranca-Davies *[holding answer 25 March 2009]*: The Environment Agency has undertaken an inventory of habitat at Tilbury marshes using aerial photography as part of its Thames Estuary 2100 project. Tilbury marshes has the potential to enhance its existing freshwater habitat which could help compensate for loss of this type of habitat due to changes to flood defences in the Thames estuary.

Andrew Mackinlay: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent assessment has been made of the importance of the Tilbury marshes to the flood plain; and if he will make a statement. [266173]

Huw Irranca-Davies *[holding answer 25 March 2009]*: Freshwater flooding of Tilbury marshes has been recently assessed by the Environment Agency and 30 per cent. of the marshes have a 1 per cent. (one in 100) or greater chance of flooding each year. The area at risk of flooding is concentrated to the north of the marshes.

Tourism: Rural Areas

Mr. Ellwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs when he last met the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport to discuss policy on tourism in rural areas. [263127]

Huw Irranca-Davies: The Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs has not met with the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport specifically to discuss policy on rural tourism. He is, however, working closely with a number of Cabinet colleagues, including the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport, on their policies affecting the one fifth of the population who live in rural areas.

My hon. Friend the Minister for Culture, Creative Industries and Tourism, has recently written to me endorsing the Government effort to support and promote rural businesses during the current economic downturn, and I am hoping to meet with her in the near future to discuss rural tourism and other matters of mutual interest.

Water: Meters

Mr. Evennett: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many water meters were installed by water supply companies in houses in Bexleyheath and Crayford constituency in each of the last three years. [264975]

Huw Irranca-Davies: The following table shows how many water meters have been installed by Thames Water (the company that supplies the Bexleyheath and Crayford constituency) for the last three years, in existing and new properties.

Water companies do not provide information to Ofwat broken down by constituency.

Meters installed by Thames Water

	2005-06	*2006-07*	*2007-08*
Number of meters installed in existing properties	23,631	47,204	34,519
Number of meters installed in new properties	23,279	26,510	19,090
Total number of meters installed	46,910	73,714	53,609

Wood

Mr. Leech: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what provision the European Commission's proposed Regulation on the obligations of operators who place timber and timber products on the market makes in respect of powers for member states *(a)* to seize illegal timber that may enter the market and *(b)* to penalise operators trading in such timber. [264705]

Huw Irranca-Davies: The Commission's proposal for a regulation—the 'due diligence regulation'—states that an operator which first places timber or timber products on the market must apply a system of due diligence to minimise the risk of placing illegal timber on the Community market.

The nature of the penalties to be applied in respect of a breach of the regulation has not yet been established. Member states, not the European Community, have competence in relation to the conferral of powers on enforcement bodies and the setting of penalties, and no decision has yet been made by the UK Government on seizure of illegal timber which has entered the Community market, or on penalties for operators trading in such timber.

We will be consulting on the UK negotiating position on the regulation and the European Parliament's amendments to the regulation in March 2009.

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

Afghanistan: Detainees

Mr. Tyrie: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the answer of 26 November 2008, *Official Report*, columns 1741-42W, on Afghanistan: detainees, if he will now disclose the relevant information. [246739]

Bill Rammell: According to our records, the answer of 28 April 2003 was based on discussions with the US at the time regarding allegations about the detention of terrorist suspects on Diego Garcia. We were informed that terrorist suspects were not being detained on the island. This was confirmed at the political/military talks on Diego Garcia in June 2003.

My officials will be in touch with the hon. Member to provide the relevant information.

Africa: Armed Conflict

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how much his Department has contributed to the Africa Programme of the Conflict Prevention Pool in each year since 2001. [265124]

Gillian Merron: From 2001 to 2007, the Government funded its conflict related programme activity through the Global Conflict Prevention Pool (GCPP) and Africa Conflict Prevention Pool (ACPP), owned and managed tri-departmentally by the Department for International Development (DfID), Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) and the Ministry of Defence (MOD). By bringing together the Government's development, diplomatic, and defence interests and expertise, this ensured a coherent response to conflict prevention. In 2001, all three Departments contributed funds to form these pools (£2.1 million disbursed by the FCO; £14.4 million by the DfID and £3.2 million by the MOD), but in subsequent years funds have been allocated directly from the Treasury.

The Conflict Prevention Pool (CPP) was set up in April 2008 as a successor to the former Global and Africa Conflict Prevention Pools, focussing activity through regional programmes where the UK can have its biggest impact, and through thematic programmes to deal with cross-cutting conflict prevention issues. The CPP commands a total of £112 million in 2008-09 of which the Africa Conflict Prevention Programme is forecast to spend £68 million. From FY 2001-02 to 2007-08, the Government have spent approximately £341 million through the Africa Conflict Prevention Pool. This is detailed by year in the following table:

	Amount (£ million)
2001-02	19.7
2002-03	45.3
2003-04	47.2
2004-05	63.7

	Amount (£ million)
2005-06	48.2
2006-07	57
2007-08	60

Anti-Semitism

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the answer of 9 March 2009, *Official Report*, column 41W, on anti-Semitism, on what recent occasions *(a)* he and *(b)* other Ministers in his Department have condemned anti-Semitism; and if he will make a statement. [264674]

Gillian Merron: The Government condemn all acts of racism, anti-Semitism and religious intolerance. My hon. Friend, the Minister of State, (Bill Rammell) specifically re-iterated this in the House of Commons on 13 January 2009, *Official Report*, column 132, and my noble Friend Lord Malloch-Brown, the Minister for Africa, Asia and the UN, during the Gaza debate in the House of Lords on 6 February 2009, *Official Report*, column 931.

The London Declaration of the recent conference held by the Inter-parliamentary Coalition Combating anti-Semitism, co-hosted by the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, called on legislators to "expose, challenge and isolate political actors who engage in hate against Jews and target the state of Israel as a Jewish collectivity." It also calls on governments to "challenge any foreign leader, politician or public figure who denies, denigrates or trivializes the Holocaust and must encourage civil society to be vigilant to this phenomenon and to openly condemn it." My noble Friend Lord Malloch-Brown addressed the conference and condemned anti-Semitism in unequivocal terms.

Binyam Mohamed

Mr. Davey: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether the Government gave permission to the US to share UK intelligence with the Moroccan intelligence services in relation to *(a)* the interrogation of Binyam Mohamed and *(b)* other matters between 2001 and 2004; and if he will make a statement. [259361]

David Miliband: It is the long-standing policy of the Government not to comment on intelligence matters.

The High Court's Judgment in the case of R (Binyam Mohamed) v Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs of 21 August 2008 said,

> "it is clear that the United States authorities have never informed either the SyS or any other part of the United Kingdom Government about BM's whereabouts in the period between 17 May 2002 and his transfer to Bagram in May 2004".

Mr. Davey: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether the Government shared UK intelligence relating to *(a)* the interrogation of Binyam Mohamed and *(b)* other intelligence matters directly with the Moroccan intelligence services between 2001 and 2004; and if he will make a statement. [259362]

David Miliband: It is the long-standing policy of the Government not to comment on intelligence matters. The High Court's Judgment in the case of R (Binyam Mohamed) v Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs of 21 August 2008 said,

> "it is clear that the United States authorities have never informed either the SyS or any other part of the United Kingdom Government about BM's whereabouts in the period between 17 May 2002 and his transfer to Bagram in May 2004".

Chevening Scholarships

Mr. Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how much private sector funding for Chevening scholarships there was is 2008. [266261]

Caroline Flint: Private sector funding for Chevening scholarships in 2008-09 (financial year) is £3.8 million. There is also £2 million funding from higher education institutions.

Mr. Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what the cost of the Chevening scholarships scheme was in 2008. [266262]

Caroline Flint: The total cost of the Chevening scholarship scheme in 2008-09 (financial year) will be £27.5 million.

Mr. Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many Chevening *(a)* scholarships and *(b)* fellowships were awarded in 2008. [266263]

Caroline Flint: There were 977 Chevening scholars and 213 Chevening fellows in 2008-09.

Mr. Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many Chevening *(a)* scholarships and *(b)* fellowships have been awarded since the inception of the programme. [266264]

Caroline Flint: Since the Chevening programme started in 1984-85 we estimate that there have been about 32,000 scholars. Since the fellowship scheme was introduced in 2004-05 there have been 961 fellows.

Colombia: Females

John Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent reports he has received of the level of violence against women in Colombia. [265374]

Gillian Merron: Successive UN reports, and those of civil society, have detailed violence against women, including sexual violence and displacement.

Our embassy in Bogota held a round table meeting with Colombian women's organisations in October 2008 to learn more about their concerns and priorities.

We have also recently supported a UN project to improve criminal prosecution of sexual crimes committed against women and girls; and a project on human rights education for women held in Colombia's women's prisons.

John Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent reports he has received of the incidence of forced abortions for women guerrilla combatants in Colombia. [265375]

Gillian Merron: Successive UN reports have detailed the forced recruitment and crimes of sexual violence against women by illegal armed groups including the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC) and the National Liberation Army (ELN).

It is widely documented that women combatants have been forced to have abortions. We condemn these and other activities by illegal groups, such as the recruitment of child soldiers, hostage taking, drug trafficking and the use of land mines.

Cuba: Political Prisoners

John Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what reports he has received of the number of political prisoners in Cuba. [265459]

Gillian Merron: We remain concerned about the number of political prisoners in Cuba. The Government of Cuba tightly control information about their prisons so it is hard to give an accurate figure. We follow estimates from a range of sources. The latest report, in February 2009, from the non-governmental Cuban Commission for Human Rights and National Reconciliation estimated 205 political prisoners. Amnesty International puts the figure at 57.

The UK continues to raise concerns about political prisoners with the Cuban authorities, and did so most recently during Cuba's universal periodic review at the UN Human Rights Council in February 2009. The UK also recommended that Cuba allow international observers into the country to review the prisons.

Departmental Manpower

Justine Greening: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many *(a)* permanent, *(b)* agency and *(c)* temporary staff on contracts of (i) up to three months, (ii) between three and six months, (iii) between six and 12 months and (iv) 12 months or more there are in each directorate of his Department. [264302]

Gillian Merron: Details of staff employment are published in the Departmental annual report, available online at

http://www.fco.gov.uk/en/departmental-report/

Departmental Public Consultation

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what payments for *(a)* polling and *(b)* other services his Department has made to (i) Deborah Mattinson and (ii) Opinion Leader Research Limited since 31 December 2007; and if he will make a statement. [261056]

Gillian Merron: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office has made no payments to either of these suppliers since 31 December 2007.

Departmental Public Expenditure

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the answer of 2 March 2009, *Official Report*, columns 1237-8W, on departmental public expenditure, what estimate he has made of the additional amount in sterling required to meet the UK's commitments in respect of *(a)* international subscriptions and *(b)* peacekeeping activities in (i) 2008-09 and (ii) 2009-10. [261939]

David Miliband: The information is as follows:

(a) International Subscriptions

(i) 2008-09

The forecast cost of the UK's international subscriptions in 2008-09 is £145.765 million (an updated figure from that quoted in my response of 2 March 2009, *Official Report*, column 239W, of £142.73 million).

For international subscriptions the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) has a cost-sharing agreement with HM Treasury (HMT) where HMT will cover 60 per cent. of the additional funds required over £102 million. Therefore the cost to the FCO is £119.5 million, where the additional sterling required is £17.5 million.

(ii) 2009-10

The forecast cost of the UK's International Subscriptions in 2009-10 is £193 million (an updated figure from that quoted in my response of 2 March 2009, *Official Report*, column 239W, of £146 million).

Based on the agreement with HMT, the FCO's share of this cost is £138.36 million, where the additional sterling required is projected at £36.36 million. However, this figure will change depending on exchange rate movements.

(b) Peacekeeping

(i) 2008-09

The forecast cost of assessed peacekeeping costs paid in foreign currencies by the FCO in 2008-09 is £310.4 million. A detailed breakdown of this estimate is provided in response of 23 March 2009, *Official Report*, column 26W. The additional amount in sterling required above budget will be offset by a transfer of £29.4 million from the FCO. This transfer includes gains from the benefits of the advanced purchase of foreign currency based on estimates at the time of the Spring Supplementary.

(ii) 2009-10

UN peacekeeping assessed costs for 2009-10—based on current UN Security Council mandates—will not be agreed by the UN General Assembly until June 2009. However, based on our assumptions of those and other assessed costs and the advanced purchase of foreign currency so far, we have budgeted for £456 million of payments from Department for International Development/Ministry of Defence/FCO conflict funds.

Departmental Publications

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what estimate he has made of the *(a)* production and printing and *(b)* other costs to his Department of producing its most recent (i) departmental annual report and (ii) autumn performance report. [266694]

Gillian Merron: The cost of producing the 2008-09 departmental report is not yet known as we are currently finalising the budget with our supplier. It will be published in June 2009.

The Foreign and Commonwealth Office autumn performance report published in December 2008 cost £370 to produce.

Diplomatic Service: Security Guards

Tom Brake: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what diplomatic protocols govern the possession of arms by foreign nationals assigned to provide security for their nationals whilst in the UK. [264436]

Gillian Merron: The operational responsibility for protecting foreign VIPs in Great Britain lies with the Metropolitan Police. Separate arrangements are in place for Northern Ireland.

Requests received from foreign nationals to carry firearms whilst in Great Britain are referred to the Home Office who will consider the request, in the light of a risk assessment by the Metropolitan Police. If authority is granted, the foreign officers must work at all times under the direction of the Metropolitan Police when they are carrying their weapons.

Elections: Monitoring

Mr. Bruce George: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what discussions he has had with the British delegation to the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly on proposals to reduce his Department's budget for election observation in 2009-10. [261920]

Caroline Flint: I refer my right hon. Friend to the written ministerial statement given on 25 March 2009 by my right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary on the Government's plans for funding conflict prevention, peacekeeping and stabilisation activity, *Official Report*, columns 17-19WS.

We greatly value the election observation work of the Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe and will continue to fund this activity on an ad hoc basis.

France: Antisemitism

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent reports he has received on levels of anti-Semitism in France; and if he will make a statement. [263265]

Caroline Flint: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) received reports of anti-Semitic inci[illegible] in France in January 2009, following the recen[illegible] Gaza.

The FCO will continue to monitor anti-Semitic activity in France and other countries.

The Government are committed to tackling and reducing anti-Semitism. We have taken a number of measures to that effect, including supporting the victims of the Holocaust (including support for Holocaust memorial day) and, through our embassies overseas, supporting parliamentarians in other countries, in their efforts to tackle anti-Semitism in their home countries.

Gaza: Weapons

Martin Horwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what discussions took place between members of the Quartet on proposals to stop the flow of weapons into Gaza *(a)* before and *(b)* after the appointment of Tony Blair as Envoy. [253213]

Bill Rammell *[holding answer 2 February 2009]*: The Quartet has discussed a wide range of Middle East Peace Process-related issues including smuggling before and after the appointment of the Quartet representative, the right hon. Tony Blair. The Quartet's public statements provide a summary of their discussions and are available online at:

http://www.un.org/apps/news/docs.asp?Topic=Middle%20East&Type=Quartet%20statement

International Organisations: Finance

Mr. Lidington: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the answer of 9 March 2009, *Official Report*, columns 50-52W, how much he expects to pay in subscriptions to each international organisation from his Department's budget in *(a)* 2008-09, *(b)* 2009-10 and *(c)* 2010-11; and if he will make a statement. [263863]

Gillian Merron *[holding answer 16 March 2009]*: The information is as follows:

Subscriptions to each international organisation in 2008-09

The projected costs for 2008-09 are £145.765 million. This is an updated figure from that referred to in the answer of 27 February 2009, *Official Report*, columns 1199W-1200W.

(a) Subscriptions to each international organisation in 2008-09

Subscription	*£000*
UN regular budget and other UN contributions	73,699
Council of Europe	23,938
North Atlantic Treaty Organisation	20,870
Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development	15,250
Commonwealth secretariat	4,343
Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe	3,745
Western European Union/others	3,920
Total	145,765

Subscriptions to each international organisation in 2009-10

The projected costs for 2009-10 are £193 million but are uncertain. This is an updated figure from that referred to in the answer of 27 February 2009, *Official Report*, columns 1199W-1200W. The fall in the value of the sterling will have an impact on subscriptions paid in US dollars and euros.

Subscriptions to each international organisation in 2010-11

The projected costs for 2010-11 are around £163 million but, given the time scale, this figure is even less certain than that for 2009-10. Many international organisations will not start to set their budget for 2010 (calendar year) until the end of 2009 and for 2011 (calendar year) until the end of 2010. In negotiating with international organisations when they set their budgets, the Foreign and Commonwealth Office will endeavour to limit budget increases to zero real growth.

Kosovo: Politics and Government

Mr. Boswell: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what contribution the Government plan to make to the activities of EULEX in Kosovo. [266085]

Caroline Flint: I refer the hon. Member to the written ministerial statement of 25 March 2009, *Official Report*, columns 17-19WS, giving details of conflict prevention funding for the coming financial year.

The allocation for Wider Europe has been set at £33 million, from which we will contribute £2.55 million to the European Union Rule of Law Mission in Kosovo (EULEX). This will fund 32 UK secondees in the mission, a reduction from the current figure of 63. In addition, through the UK's share of the overall Common Foreign and Security Policy budget we are contributing to the common costs for EULEX (€34.85 million or 17 per cent. of €205 million).

We will continue to offer EULEX our full political support in the implementation of its mandate throughout Kosovo.

Middle East: Peace Negotiations

Mr. Ancram: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what discussions he has had with Senator George Mitchell on the Middle East Peace Process since his appointment as President Obama's Middle East envoy. [259923]

Bill Rammell: My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary last met Senator Mitchell during his visit to Washington on 18 March 2009. They discussed a range of issues related to the Middle East Peace Process. Including the importance of having a clear peace plan based on the Arab Peace Initiative.

My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary re-iterated the importance of keeping alive long-term vision of two states, Israel and Palestine, living side by side in security, as an essential basis for regional stability.

NATO

Mrs. Curtis-Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs when he last met the NATO Secretary-General to discuss the NATO-EU relations; and if he will make a statement. [266894]

Caroline Flint: Effective EU-North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) relations are essential in order to deliver both capability development and effective operations on the ground. The importance of this co-operation is highlighted in the European Security Strategy and in NATO's Comprehensive Political Guidance.

My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary discussed EU-NATO relations with the NATO Secretary-General during their meeting in London on September 18, 2008. In addition, EU-NATO co-operation is regularly discussed at NATO Foreign Ministers' meetings, the last of which was on 5 March 2009. The December 2008 Foreign Ministers' Communiqué also made clear that NATO and the EU share common values and strategic interests, and will continue to work side by side.

Pakistan: Blasphemy

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will make representations to the government of Pakistan on its application of the blasphemy law in the case of *(a)* Hector Aleem, *(b)* Basharat Masih, *(c)* Shafique Anjum and *(d)* Naveed Aziz. [263520]

Bill Rammell: We are aware of the detention of Mr. Aleem and Mr. Masih but have not made representations to the government of Pakistan on their behalf. Officials in our high commission in Islamabad have established that Pakistan's Ministry for Human Rights is already engaged on their cases. We will continue to monitor developments but cannot intervene while legal proceedings are in progress.

We understand that the charges of blasphemy against Shafique Anjum and Naveed Aziz have been dropped following the intervention of a non-governmental organisation in Pakistan.

Ratko Mladic

Mrs. Curtis-Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent assessment he has made of the likelihood of the early arrest of Ratko Mladic; and if he will make a statement. [266899]

Caroline Flint: Our assessment is that the Serbian government is working actively to secure the arrest and transfer of the remaining International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia (ICTY) indictees, including Ratko Mladic, to the Hague. We continue to urge the Serbian authorities to make every effort to ensure that the arrest and transfer of the remaining indictees take place as soon as possible.

Redundancy

Justine Greening: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs with reference to the answer of 25 November 2008, *Official Report*, columns 1208-10W, on redundancy, which posts were vacated by the staff who received severance packages of £100,000 and above; and if he will make a statement. [263861]

Gillian Merron *[holding answer 16 March 2009]*: My answer of 25 November 2008, *Official Report*, columns 1208-10W, detailed the total cost to the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) of funding each retirement package, not the value of packages received by staff themselves. The amount received by staff would have been considerably less than the total cost to the FCO of each package. Our resource accounts record all the costs charged to the FCO, including pension entitlements that staff would have received anyway from the Civil Service Pension Scheme and administrative charges picked up by the FCO. They do not record the actual extra sums received by staff for leaving early. We cannot therefore identify which posts were vacated by staff whose severance package falls within the terms of this question.

As a result of our early retirement schemes, we have been able to reduce the size of our senior management grades by more than 20 per cent. and to restructure FCO Services, then an Executive agency, for successful launch in 2008 as a Trading Fund.

The size and structure of early retirement packages are determined by the provisions of the Civil Service Compensation Scheme and based on pension entitlements. The FCO does not have discretion to depart from these terms.

Roy Bennett

John Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what representations he has made through *(a)* the Commonwealth and *(b)* the United Nations Security Council on the arrest and detention in Zimbabwe of Roy Bennett. [265457]

Gillian Merron: Roy Bennett, the Zimbabwean Deputy Agriculture Minister designate, was released on bail on 12 March 2009.

My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary has made clear that the rule of law and improved respect for human rights, including the issue of politically motivated detentions, are conditions for the resumption of international development support to Zimbabwe.

Russia: Politics and Government

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent steps the Government have taken to monitor the political situation in Russia. [266094]

Caroline Flint: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office receives a regular stream of political analysis from its network of posts in Russia. In addition, the political situation is one of the issues discussed in regular contacts between Ministers and officials and the Russian Government. Earlier this month I met with my opposite number, deputy Foreign Minister Titov, and my noble Friend Lord Malloch-Brown had meetings with a number of government ministers in Moscow including Foreign Minister Lavrov. My right hon. Friend the Prime Minister will have discussions with President Medvedev during his visit to the UK for the London G20 Summit.

Somalia: Piracy

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent discussions he has had on the activities of pirates operating from Somalia. [256646]

Gillian Merron: We continue to work with our international partners to address the problem posed by pirates operating off the coast of Somalia. At a meeting of the UN Security Council in December 2008, attended by my right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary, the UK supported the adoption of UN Security Council resolution 1851, which recommended the establishment of an international Contact Group for Piracy off the Coast of Somalia (CGPCS). The inaugural meeting of the CGPCS took place in New York in January 2009. This meeting led to the subsequent establishment of working groups tasked with considering four key issues:

> Working Group 1: Operational and information support and establishment of a counter-piracy co-ordination centre;
>
> Working Group 2: Judicial frameworks for arrest, prosecution and detention of pirates;
>
> Working Group 3: Strengthening commercial shipping self-awareness and self-defence;
>
> Working Group 4: Improving diplomatic and public information efforts.

The UK agreed to lead on Working Group 1 and hosted (with the International Maritime Organisation) the first meeting of the group in London on 24-25 February 2009.

Sudan: Armed Conflict

John Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what estimate he has made of the number of deaths by violence in Darfur in 2008. [265362]

Gillian Merron: It is not possible to obtain regular mortality figures in Darfur, or to disaggregate figures by cause. The UN emergency relief co-ordinator, John Holmes, has suggested that the conflict in Darfur may have caused up to 300,000 deaths since 2003.

Sudan: Peacekeeping Operations

John Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many UN/African troops are in Darfur. [265361]

Gillian Merron: As of 2 March 2009, the United Nations/African Union Mission in Darfur (UNAMID) had approximately 18,300 troops, police and civilians.

Sudan: War Crimes

John Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what discussions he has had with the Chinese government on the issue by the International Criminal Court of an arrest warrant for the Sudanese President Bashir. [265471]

Gillian Merron: My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary met the Chinese Foreign Minister Yang Jiechi on 1 February 2009. They discussed the situation in Darfur including the possibility of the International Criminal Court imminently issuing an arrest warrant for President Bashir for war crimes.

My noble Friend Lord Malloch-Brown, the Minister for Africa, Asia and the UN, discussed the issue with Chinese Assistant Minister for Africa, Zhai Jun, in Beijing on 20 February 2009.

My right hon. Friend the Prime Minister has recently written to Premier Wen expressing his concern over the humanitarian impact of the decision to expel thirteen international humanitarian non-governmental organisations. This is an issue we will continue to discuss with the Government of China.

Syrian Arab Republic

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many times he has visited Syria on official business in the last three years; and what plans he has for further such visits. [266952]

Bill Rammell: My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary visited Syria in November 2008, the first ministerial visit since Baroness Symons's in 2004.

The Foreign Secretary has no immediate plans for a further visit. I will be visiting Syria shortly.

UN Resolutions: Sexual Offences

Mr. Sarwar: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what steps his Department has taken to support the achievement of the objectives of the UN Resolution 1820 on Women and peace and security. [264805]

Gillian Merron: Since the passage of UN Security Council Resolution (UNSCR) 1820 in June 2008, the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) has taken several positive steps toward supporting moves to implement the objectives of the UNSCR, including:

Supporting the development and strengthening of the capacities of national institutions, in particular judicial and health systems and local civil society networks in the Democratic Republic of Congo and Afghanistan, in order to provide assistance to victims of sexual violence.

Working to mainstream the provisions of UNSCR 1820 into the mandates of UN peacekeeping missions, such as UNSCR 1861 for Chad/Central African Republic, and highlighting the importance of gender considerations in the training that peacekeepers receive, including from UK supported training.

Working for greater levels of representation of women in the mediation services provided by the UN and among deployed peacekeeping troop contingents.

Highlighting the importance of conduct and discipline of peacekeepers in committees such as the C-34 Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations and the UN Security Council, including the provision of UK funding to the UN Conduct and Discipline unit.

We are looking forward to the UN Secretary-General's report on the implementation of this resolution on 30 June 2009 and the recommendations it contains. We will consider them carefully in relation to our own National Action Plan on UNSCR 1325.

Zimbabwe: Cholera

John Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what reports he has received of the number of deaths from cholera in Zimbabwe in 2008. [265366]

Gillian Merron: The World Health Organisation reports that as of 16 March 2009 there had been 91,265 cases and 4,030 deaths from cholera in Zimbabwe since the outbreak began.

Zimbabwe: Entry Clearances

John Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many Zimbabwean *(a)* politicians, *(b)* civil servants, *(c)* judges and *(d)* members of the armed forces are prohibited from entering the UK. [265452]

Gillian Merron: 173 politicians, civil servants, judges and members of the armed forces (including police, ZANU-PF politburo, governors and former ministers), and an additional 30 individuals and 40 companies are currently subject to EU sanctions. All supported the Government of Zimbabwe or its violence and human rights abuses prior to Morgan Tsvangirai's inauguration as Prime Minister. Under the terms of the sanctions they are banned from travelling to the UK.

Zimbabwe: Political Prisoners

John Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what reports he has received of the number of political prisoners in Zimbabwe. [265365]

Gillian Merron: As of 19 March 2009, there were at least 28 political prisoners currently held in custody in Zimbabwe. Another seven missing people who were abducted last year are suspected to be in state custody. As my right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary said in a press statement on 11 February 2009, the release of all political detainees, and the rule of law more broadly, will be one of the conditions for sustained development support for the new government.

The press statement is available for viewing online at:

http://www.fco.gov.uk/en/newsroom/latest-news/?view=PressS&id=13462857

Zimbabwe: Politics and Government

Mr. Ancram: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs when he last had discussions with the South African Government on the Government of Zimbabwe. [265397]

Gillian Merron: My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary last discussed Zimbabwe with his South African counterpart, Mrs. Dlamini-Zuma, at a meeting in London on 6 March 2009.

Mr. Ancram: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether he plans to hold discussions with the Prime Minister of Zimbabwe on the political situation in that country. [265449]

Gillian Merron: My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary continues to follow developments in Zimbabwe closely.

He has no immediate plans to meet the Zimbabwean Prime Minister.

John Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what estimate he has made of the number of extra-judicial executions in Zimbabwe in *(a)* 2007 and *(b)* 2008. [265456]

Gillian Merron: We are not aware of any extra-judicial executions having taken place in Zimbabwe in 2009. The Zimbabwe Human Rights Forum estimate there were three extra-judicial executions in Zimbabwe in 2007. At least 193 cases of politically motivated deaths occurred in 2008 since the March 2008 elections. We condemn the on-going disregard for the rule of law in Zimbabwe and call on the transitional Government to enact reform to protect the fundamental rights of its people.

WORK AND PENSIONS

Children: Maintenance

Mr. Frank Field: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions in how many and what proportion of child maintenance cases in Birkenhead constituency payments were made correctly and on time in the latest year for which figures are available. [264776]

Kitty Ussher *[holding answer 19 March 2009]:* The Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission is responsible for the child maintenance system. I have therefore asked the Child Maintenance Commissioner to write to the right hon. Member with the information requested.

Letter from Stephen Geraghty:

In reply to your recent Parliamentary Question, the Secretary of State promised a substantive reply from the Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission.

You asked the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, how many and what proportion of child maintenance cases, in Birkenhead constituency, payments were made correctly and on time in the latest year for which figures are available. [264776]

Information on the accuracy of individual payments made is not available. Information on the accuracy of maintenance assessments at a national level only is available and is regularly published in Table 17 of the Child Support Agency Quarterly Summary of Statistics. The latest version of which is available in the House of Commons library or online at:

http://www.childmaintenance.org/publications/statistics.html

and shows that in the year ending December 2008, 83% of current scheme and 94% of old scheme assessments were accurate to the nearest penny.

The Agency aims to make maintenance payments to parents with care within a week of receiving the money from the non-resident parent. The Agency only holds information relating to the 70% of maintenance cases in the Birkenhead constituency maintained on the CS2 computer system. Of the 15,600 recorded payments made to parents with care on the CS2 computer system in the year ending December 2008, 94% were sent to the parent with care within seven days of the payment arriving in the Agency's bank account.

I hope you find this answer helpful.

Community Care Grants

Andrew Selous: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the average length of time taken to *(a)* process community care grant applications and *(b)* review community care grant decisions is in each of the smallest geographic areas for which figures are available. [264590]

Kitty Ussher *[holding answer 19 March 2009]:* The information is in the following table.

	Average actual clearance times for community care grants from 1 April 2008 to 28 February 2009 (working days)	
Jobcentre Plus Social Fund budget area (ordered by region)	*Applications*	*First reviews*
East of England		
Essex	10.2	13.1
Norwich Benefit Delivery Centre	12.1	46.8
East Midlands		
East Midlands North	13.9	13.7
South East Midlands	11.8	21.9
London		
Central and East London	11.5	14.4
London South	12.7	19.2
North and North East London	12.5	28.1
West London	11.5	21.6
North East		
Northumbria	8.5	8.3
South Tyne and Wear Valley	7.6	13.0
Tees Valley	8.9	8.9
North West		
Chorlton Benefit Delivery Centre	9.8	19.7
Greater Liverpool and Cheshire	9.8	19.4
Scotland		
Inverness Benefit Delivery Centre	9.3	18.6
Livingston Benefit Delivery Centre	8.7	15.7
South East		
Berkshire, Oxfordshire, Buckinghamshire and Surrey	22.8	28.6
Hampshire, Isle of Wight, Kent and Sussex	24.2	27.6
South West		
South West Central	8.4	29.3

Jobcentre Plus Social Fund budget area (ordered by region)	*Average actual clearance times for community care grants from 1 April 2008 to 28 February 2009 (working days)*	
	Applications	*First reviews*
Wales		
Llanelli Benefit Delivery Centre	11.4	22.8
South East Wales	12.2	18.9
West Midlands		
West Midlands Social Fund	11.9	19.4
Yorkshire and Humberside		
Bradford	13.9	21.3
Sheffield	13.7	36.4

Notes:
1. A first review is a review at Jobcentre Plus requested by an applicant.
2. The clearance time for an individual Community Care Grant application is measured in whole working days from the date the application is received to the date of the decision, inclusive. The minimum clearance time recorded for an individual application is one day, even if the application is cleared immediately. The same applies to requests for first review.
3. Numbers are based on applications cleared from 1 April 2008 to 28 February 2009, not on applications received during that time period. The same applies to requests for first review.
4. Information regarding reviews by the Independent Review Service is a matter for the Social Fund Commissioner.

Source:
DWP Social Fund Policy, Budget and Management Information System.

Departmental Databases

Mrs. Laing: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many *(a)* records and *(b)* data fields there are in (i) the Customer Management System, (ii) the Patient Modernisation Programme, (iii) the Pensions Transformation Programme, (iv) the Customer Information System, (v) the Tell Us Once system, (vi) the Income Support Computer and (vii) the Data Matching Service. [265738]

Jonathan Shaw: The Department for Work and Pensions holds a large amount of data in order to process benefits and deliver the wide range of services for which it is responsible.

Customer Management System: this system holds 480,000 customer records and 1,300 data fields.

Patient Modernisation Programme: this is not a Department for Work and Pensions' computer system.

Pensions Transformation Programme: this system holds 6.5 million cases and 15,500 data fields.

Customer Information System: this system holds 92 million person related records and 9,800 data fields.

Tell Us Once system: this system is currently in feasibility and testing within 14 local authority areas. It only collects the information that a customer is already required to report following a birth or a death. To date the service has collected and stored information from 8,440 people in up to 110 data fields depending on their circumstances.

Income Support Computer system: 8 million cases of which 5 million are currently active and 700 data fields.

Data Matching Service: this information is not available and to obtain the overall number of records of all types within this system would be at disproportionate cost.

All counts provided have been rounded.

Departmental Detergents

Annette Brooke: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will make it his policy to ensure that no cleaning products or ingredients of cleaning products used by his Department have been tested on animals. [261117]

Jonathan Shaw: The contractors that deliver cleaning services to DWP do not use cleaning products, or ingredients in cleaning products, that have been tested on animals and they have confirmed that this is their policy.

Departmental Lost Property

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions whether officials in his Department who have lost laptops that were the property of his Department in the last 12 months have been charged the full value of replacement. [266233]

Jonathan Shaw: Laptops that are used by the Department are provided under contracted arrangements with a service provider. Departmental employees are not charged for the value of replacement when such items are lost.

Departmental Public Consultation

Mr. Vara: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many public consultations his Department has conducted in the last 12 months; how long each consultation was open for; how many responses were received in each case; and what the cost of conducting each consultation was. [259694]

Jonathan Shaw: The following table provides details of each consultation in my Department in the 12 months to the end of February 2009.

Providing a full answer to the last two parts of the question could be done only at disproportionate cost. The number of responses to our consultations varies greatly. For example we received over 1,000 formal written submissions to our 'No one written off' consultation on welfare reform, but this represents only part of the picture, given that we received numerous responses in internet-based discussion forums, and a large amount of face-to-face input at a range of different events and meetings. In contrast, for our more specialist, and often more limited, consultations in the private pensions area, for example, typically 50-100 responses are received for each.

On costs, the costs quoted for our four largest consultations during the last 12 months, are for services procured specifically to support these consultations—for example, professional production of documents, cost of consultation events, and research. In the case of our smaller consultations, these services are not used.

DWP Consultations in year ended February 2009

Consultation	*Consultation period*	*Weeks*	*Cost (£)*
The Pensions Regulator (Miscellaneous Amendment) Regulations 2009	15 December 2008 to 6 February 2009	7	[1]—
The Occupational, Personal and Stakeholder Pensions (Miscellaneous Amendments) Regulations 2009	8 December 2008 to 30 January 2009	7	[1]—
Financial Assistance Scheme and Incapacity Benefit (Miscellaneous Amendments) Regulations 2009	5 November 2008 to 3 December 2008	4	[1]—
The Occupational Pension Schemes (Contracting-Out) (Amendment) Regulations 2009	2 September 2008 to 28 October 2008	8	[1]—
No One Written Off: Reforming Welfare to Reward Responsibility	21 July 2008 to 22 October 2008	13	[2]268,000
Pension Risk Sharing Consultation Paper	5 June 2008 to 28 August 2008	12	[1]—
The Pension Sharing (Pension Credit Benefit) (Amendment)	29 May 2008 to 21 July 2008	8	[1]—
The Pension Protection Fund (Miscellaneous Amendments) (No 2) Regulations 2008	28 May 2008 to 5 June 2008	2	[1]—
The powers of the Pensions Regulator: Amendments to the anti-avoidance measures in the Pensions Act 2004	25 April 2008 to 20 June 2008	8	[1]—
Financial Assistance Scheme (Miscellaneous Amendments) Regulations 2008	27 March 2008 to 9 May 2008	6	[1]—
Financial Assistance Scheme (Miscellaneous Provisions) Regulations 2008	6 March 2008 to 20 March 2008	3	[1]—
Revision of the Annuity Factors employed by the Financial Assistance Scheme	6 March 2008 to 18 April 2008	6	[1]—
Independent Living Strategy Consultation	3 March 2008 to 20 June 2008	17	[2]70,000
The Pension Protection Fund (Miscellaneous Amendments) Regulations 2008	19 December 2007 to 12 February 2008	8	[1]—
Pensions: Contracting-Out - Self Invested Personal Pensions and Other Changes	10 December 2007 to 29 February 2008	12	[1]—
Improving Specialist Disability Employment Services	3 December 2007 to 10 March 2008	14	[2]106,000

[1] These consultations were undertaken at low cost as an integral part of the policy-making processes; it is therefore not possible to separate out specific consultation costs.

[2] These figures represent specifically procured costs of the consultation, for example, producing consultation documents and organising consultation events.

Employment: Disabled

John Howell: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions whether the Improving Disability Employment Advisory Service programme will be available to *(a)* jobseeker's allowance claimants and *(b)* employment and support allowance claimants. [262644]

Jonathan Shaw: Yes, the new specialist disability employment programme will be available, on a voluntary basis, to eligible claimants of jobseeker's allowance and employment and support allowance.

John Howell: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions whether those facing increased obligations under the employment and support allowance regime who are in need of specialist disability employment support will have a right to access the Improving Disability Employment Advisory Service programme whether or not they receive a referral via Pathways to Work. [262645]

Jonathan Shaw: The new specialist disability employment programme will be available, on a voluntary basis, to eligible claimants of employment and support allowance whether or not they receive a referral via Pathways to Work.

Incapacity Benefit: Yorkshire and the Humber

Jeff Ennis: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people in *(a)* Barnsley and *(b)* Doncaster have claimed incapacity benefit in each year since 1997. [264553]

Jonathan Shaw: The information is in the following table.

Number of incapacity benefit/severe disablement allowance claimants in Doncaster and Barnsley local authorities in each year since 1997

As at August each year	*Barnsley*	*Doncaster*
1997	21,300	22,700
1998	21,000	21,700
1999	19,390	19,640
2000	19,240	19,660
2001	19,600	19,760
2002	19,700	19,520
2003	19,480	19,290
2004	19,090	18,910
2005	18,360	18,090
2006	17,780	17,720
2007	16,970	17,440
2008	16,290	16,850

Notes:

1. 100 per cent. figures are rounded to the nearest 10. 5 per cent. figures are rounded to the nearest 100 and have been uprated to be consistent with Work and Pensions Longitudinal Study data.

2. Data is published at:

www.nomisweb.co.uk

Source:

Data pre-1999: Department for Work and Pensions, Information Directorate, 5 per cent. sample and Work and Pensions Longitudinal Study data.

Data post-1999: Department for Work and Pensions Information Directorate 100 per cent. Work and Pensions Longitudinal Study.

Mortgages: Government Assistance

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people identified as unemployed in *(a)* Hemel Hempstead and *(b)* Hertfordshire have received assistance from his Department and its agencies with the cost of meeting mortgage interest repayments in the last six months. [265802]

Kitty Ussher: The information requested is not available.

Pathways to Work and Workstep

Derek Conway: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what assessment he has made of the comparative effectiveness of prime contractors on the Pathways to Work programme and Workstep. [263028]

Jonathan Shaw: Provider-led pathways commenced in December 2007 and now operate in 60 per cent. of the country. Provider-led pathways operate under the Department for Work and Pensions standard prime contractor model.

Workstep has been available nationally since 2001 but does not use the prime contractor model. The service is delivered through a network of providers from the range of private sector, voluntary organisations and local authorities. No comparison of the two models has therefore been undertaken for these two programmes.

Pension Credit: Greater London

Ms Buck: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many pensioner households were in receipt of pension credit in each London local authority in *(a)* 2003-04 and *(b)* 2008-09; and what the average payment to (i) single pensioner households and (ii) pensioner couples was in each of those years. [260020]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The information is in the following tables.

Table 1: Households in receipt of pension credit in each London local authority

Local authority	*November 2003*	*August 2008*
Barking and Dagenham	6,400	8,520
Barnet	8,800	11,470
Bexley	5,200	7,310
Brent	9,600	12,440
Bromley	6,950	9,100
Camden	7,530	8,930
City of London	140	170
Croydon	8,000	11,360
Ealing	9,290	12,280
Enfield	9,420	11,780
Greenwich	7,400	9,280
Hackney	9,500	10,720
Hammersmith and Fulham	5,200	6,640
Haringey	8,410	10,210
Harrow	6,200	8,290
Havering	6,710	9,460
Hillingdon	5,970	8,130
Hounslow	6,430	8,240
Islington	7,800	9,510
Kensington and Chelsea	4,670	5,940
Kingston-upon-Thames	3,020	3,990
Lambeth	9,000	11,390
Lewisham	8,390	10,360
Merton	4,510	5,720
Newham	10,290	12,110
Redbridge	7,320	9,800
Richmond-upon-Thames	3,370	4,450
Southwark	9,100	11,370
Sutton	4,450	5,770
Tower Hamlets	10,400	10,950
Waltham Forest	7,970	9,740
Wandsworth	8,030	9,780
Westminster, City of	6,720	8,240
Total	233,400	293,470

Table 2: Average pension credit payment to single pensioner households and pensioner couples

	November 2003			*August 2008*		
Local authority	*Total*	*With partner*	*No partner*	*Total*	*With partner*	*No partner*
Barking and Dagenham	49.64	61.38	47.08	59.64	75.80	55.49
Barnet	69.54	83.96	55.24	75.03	99.02	69.27
Bexley	44.22	56.59	41.49	54.94	71.93	50.87
Brent	70.02	89.40	64.90	82.02	101.25	76.95
Bromley	44.16	56.77	41.91	56.43	69.54	53.75
Camden	64.12	84.06	60.58	79.76	103.96	75.73
City of London	62.75	72.67	61.63	77.46	80.69	77.08
Croydon	52.79	68.91	49.25	67.33	86.76	62.80
Ealing	67.77	87.90	62.69	80.99	103.81	75.10
Enfield	56.54	74.71	51.11	71.08	89.70	65.26
Greenwich	53.17	71.55	49.22	67.26	86.72	62.92
Hackney	67.43	89.57	62.80	81.55	110.97	75.59
Hammersmith and Fulham	60.19	81.26	57.06	74.17	98.82	70.48
Haringey	64.17	83.43	59.64	78.73	100.93	73.38
Harrow	70.90	95.03	63.53	85.00	111.87	76.78
Havering	42.30	50.61	40.53	51.78	62.40	48.96
Hillingdon	54.06	72.74	49.70	65.60	88.61	59.91
Hounslow	60.69	81.20	55.58	73.62	96.67	67.44
Islington	63.98	62.53	60.37	75.76	95.11	72.09

Table 2: Average pension credit payment to single pensioner households and pensioner couples

	November 2003			August 2008		
Local authority	*Total*	*With partner*	*No partner*	*Total*	*With partner*	*No partner*
Kensington and Chelsea	64.91	86.63	61.95	80.88	104.93	77.11
Kingston-upon-Thames	50.46	75.12	45.42	64.23	95.33	57.97
Lambeth	61.29	80.93	58.06	73.11	91.61	70.20
Lewisham	53.01	68.80	50.26	65.99	86.29	62.36
Merton	52.36	69.91	48.33	65.64	84.98	60.74
Newham	66.14	85.50	60.01	80.42	102.29	73.42
Redbridge	58.95	78.54	53.50	73.88	95.51	67.17
Richmond-upon-Thames	48.01	65.41	45.29	61.87	83.61	58.32
Southwark	57.99	76.80	54.58	71.83	91.90	68.23
Sutton	44.65	59.24	42.02	56.83	73.21	53.55
Tower Hamlets	67.85	90.57	59.22	82.80	109.02	74.67
Waltham Forest	56.80	74.17	52.29	68.48	86.48	63.44
Wandsworth	56.88	76.90	53.23	69.29	87.54	65.94
Westminster, City of	67.21	93.05	62.57	83.28	112.91	78.11
Average amount	59.04	78.60	54.63	72.11	93.32	67.19

Notes:

1. The number of households in receipt are rounded to the nearest 10.
2. Household recipients are those people who claim pension credit either for themselves only or on behalf of a household.
3. Average weekly payments are shown as pound per week and are rounded to the nearest penny.
4. Totals may not sum due to rounding.

Source:

DWP Information Directorate Work and Pensions Longitudinal Study 100 per cent. data.

Pension Credit: Overpayments

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Cardiff Central of 12 January 2009, *Official Report*, column 41W, on pension credit: overpayments, how much was repaid through *(a)* voluntary repayment, *(b)* automatic deduction from benefit, *(c)* county court judgement, *(d)* the use of bailiffs, *(e)* bankruptcy orders, *(f)* repossession orders, *(g)* private debt collection companies and *(h)* another method of repayment in each month. [252993]

Kitty Ussher: The information requested in relation to the means of repayment is not available in all the categories requested.

Action taken through the courts to recover overpayments of pension credit is limited as it is not our policy to take enforcement action through the courts where the customer is in receipt of a benefit or a pension.

The only cases where such court action could arise is where recovery is sought from the estate of a deceased customer to recover an overpayment outstanding at death, or where an overpayment is identified after death following a check of probate records. Court action would only then be taken if it had not been possible to reach a voluntary arrangement.

Likewise, our private sector partners are not generally used to seek recovery from customers of pension age.

The available information is in the following table.

Pension credit overpayment recovery by method of payment: 2007-08

£000

	Apr	*May*	*Jun*	*July*	*Aug*	*Sep*	*Oct*	*Nov*	*Dec*	*Jan*	*Feb*	*Mar*
Payments through banks[1]	1,614	1,764	1,673	1,651	1,733	1,899	2,488	1,918	1,666	1,820	1,838	1,661
Deduction from benefit	522	514	520	585	521	490	580	498	571	509	517	494
County Court	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0
Private Sector	0.4	0.9	0.6	0	0	0	0	[3]-2	0	0	0.1	0
Other[2]	89	[3]-60	127	115	142	116	132	307	93	146	146	56

2008-09[4]

£000

	Apr	*May*	*Jun*	*Jul*	*Aug*	*Sep*
Payments through banks[1]	1,757	1,837	1,850	2,175	1,676	1,871
Deduction from benefit	489	487	567	537	545	638
County Court	2	0	0	0	0	0.1
Private Sector	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other[2]	186	68	129	174	85	196

[1] Payment through banks includes cases where payment received via Direct debit, Standing order, Debit card, Transcash etc.

[2] Other includes cash payments and offsets against arrears.

[3] Negative figures represent totals following accounting adjustments.

[4] 2008-09 data is indicative only.

Pensioners: Women

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what recent assessment he has made of the extent to which women's pension entitlement is affected by them taking time off work to care for children. [258453]

Ms Rosie Winterton: I refer the hon. Member to the written answer I gave the hon. Member for Bolsover (Mr. Skinner) on 26 November 2008, *Official Report*, column 2036W.

Remploy: Manpower

Mrs. Moon: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many employees there have been in Remploy sectors *(a)* M1 and *(b)* X in each year since 2000. [261456]

Jonathan Shaw: The available information is in the following table.

Remploy employees by sector

	X Sector[1] (Number of employees)	*M1 Sector[2] (Number of employees)*	*Total number[3] of X Sector and M1 employees*
2000-01	97	216	313
2001-02	190	157	347
2002-03	211	159	370
2003-04	231	193	424
2004-05	225	230	455
2005-06	228	222	450
2006-07	209	240	449
2007-08	189	309	498
2008-09	189	289	478

[1] X sector Remploy employees are senior managers and executive grades.

[2] M1 sector Remploy employees are managers who are on the lower rung of the middle management ladder.

[3] The number of managers in Remploy since 2000-01 reflects changes in the structure of the company over this period including the growth of Remploy Employment Services and the introduction of the five year modernisation plan announced in November 2007.

Source:
Remploy

Remploy: Pay

Mrs. Moon: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much has been paid in bonuses to the *(a)* senior management and *(b)* directors of Remploy in each year since 2000. [261450]

Jonathan Shaw: The bonus payments made are based on achievement of individual performance related targets. Future bonuses will be tied to critical success factors derived from the five year modernisation plan announced in November 2007. The increase in manager bonuses since 2005-06 reflects the significant growth of Remploy Employment Services where the number of disabled people supported, into work including has trebled over the last three years.

The available information is detailed in the following table.

Bonuses paid to Remploy senior management

£

	Managers	*Directors/ Executives*	*Total*
2000-01	269,068	34,861	303,929
2001-02	324,903	54,776	379,679
2002-03	259,631	[1]—	259,631
2003-04	523,616	[1]—	523,616
2004-05	404,154	29,245	433,399
2005-06	1,163,467	[1]—	1,163,467
2006-07	1,156,030	82,000	1,238,030
2007-08	1,656,501	110,600	1,767,101

[1] Nil

Source:
Remploy

Annette Brooke: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions whether any bonuses were paid to senior Remploy staff in the last 12 months; and if he will make a statement. [261668]

Jonathan Shaw *[holding answer 6 March 2009]:* Under the terms of the Remploy bonus scheme a total of £110,600 was paid to Remploy senior staff in 2007-08.

Social Security Benefits: Essex

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the average total benefit received per household was in *(a)* Castle Point and *(b)* Essex in each of the last five years; and if he will make a statement. [267053]

Jonathan Shaw: The information is not available.

Social Security Benefits: Families

Mr. Burns: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many families received benefits in excess of £15,000 in *(a)* West Chelmsford, *(b)* Essex and *(c)* Greater London in each of the last five years. [261767]

Mr. McNulty: Figures are only available for the number of families in Greater London as sample sizes are too small to yield reliable results below a regional level.

It is estimated that the number of families in London which reported receiving benefits in excess of £15,000 per annum is 100,000 in each of the last five years. This represents less than 3 per cent. of all London families.

Although £15,000 per annum of support from the state sounds like quite a large amount, it is not that unusual to achieve this level of support. To illustrate, take a stylized example of a couple with two children, where neither parent is in work, which live in a flat with £150 per week rent and a £20 per week council tax bill. They would be eligible to £15,445 per annum in benefits, including housing benefit and council tax benefit. Benefit income after housing costs would be £4,951 income support/jobseeker's allowance and £1,630 child benefit, totaling £6,581 per annum.

Notes:

1. Figures have been rounded to the nearest 100,000.
2. The Family Resources Survey is a nationally representative sample of approximately 26,000 households in the latest survey year.

3. Data were collected between April and March for each survey year.

4. The figures are based on a sample of households which have been adjusted for non-response using multi-purpose grossing factors which align the FRS to Government office region populations by age and sex. Estimates are subject to sampling error and remaining non-response error.

5. A family refers to a benefit unit, which is defined as a single adult or a couple living as married and any dependent children. Same-sex partners (and cohabitees) are also included in the same benefit unit. Benefits are awarded on a benefit unit basis.

6. Benefit receipt is based on self-assessment and therefore may be subject to misreporting.

7. The benefit income is as reported for the survey year and has not been adjusted to account for inflation.

8. Tax credits have not been included in benefit income.

Source:

Family Resources Survey 2002-03, 2003-04, 2004-05, 2005-06, 2006-07

Winter Fuel Payments: Tyne and Wear

Mr. Kemp: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much he expects to pay to pensioner households in Houghton and Washington East constituency in winter fuel payments in 2008-09. [265026]

Ms Rosie Winterton: Expenditure on winter fuel payments in the parliamentary constituency of Houghton and Washington East in 2006-07 was £2.9 million. Actual expenditure data are not yet available for 2008-09 and forecasts of benefit expenditure are not produced below national level.

Note:

Parliamentary constituencies and local authorities are assigned by matching postcodes against the relevant ONS postcode directory.

Source:

Information directorate 100 per cent. data

Workstep

Derek Conway: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) what assessment he has made of the effectiveness of *(a)* contractors for Workstep and *(b)* specific disability charities in securing sponsoring employers and mentoring-assisted employment placements for disabled people; [261782]

(2) what steps he has taken to ensure that contractors under the Workstep programme provide equal treatment for people with different categories of disability. [261783]

Jonathan Shaw: All Department for Work and Pensions contracts, including Workstep, are managed using a standard contract management operating model involving review of performance, delivery and quality of service to customers. This includes monthly monitoring of performance, formal provider performance reviews and assessment of quality of provision. In addition, external inspection and validation ensures the quality and accuracy of Workstep providers.

The Department for Work and Pensions assesses the effectiveness of all Workstep providers, including charitable organisations, by following the standard contract management processes. A performance improvement plan would be agreed with the provider if the terms of the contract were not being met.

Workstep providers are required under the terms of Department for Work and Pensions contracts to cover all disabilities and health conditions and this is checked as part of the contract management arrangements. In addition, Workstep providers with a contract value over £50,000 are accredited by an external organisation on behalf of the Department for Work and Pensions. These accreditation checks include compliance with diversity and equal opportunities policies in respect of Jobcentre Plus customers and providers' staff, including non-discrimination on grounds of gender, ethnicity, disability, religion or belief. This also includes compliance with the requirement to make 'reasonable adjustments' within the meaning of the Disability Discrimination Act.

Workstep: Disabled

Derek Conway: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what steps he has taken to ensure equal treatment for the most vulnerable disabled jobseekers within the prime contractor models for Workstep. [263027]

Jonathan Shaw: There is no prime contractor model for Workstep. As set out in the White Paper, "Raising expectations and increasing support: reforming welfare for the future", new specialist disability employment provision will be introduced in 2010. The new programme will be implemented using the principles set out in the Department for Work and Pensions Commissioning Strategy, including the prime contractor model.

An equality impact assessment covering initiatives in the White Paper, including the new specialist disability employment provision, was published in December 2008. The equality impact assessment was published online at:

www.dwp.gov.uk/raisingexpectations

TREASURY

Post Bank

8. **Mr. Pelling:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what representations his Department has received on the creation of a Post Bank. [266532]

Ian Pearson: My Department has recently received representations from hon. Members, the "Post Bank Coalition" and Toynbee Hall on the creation of a Post Bank. This is in addition to those representations made to the Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform, which is responsible for Post Office policy.

Jobcentre Plus

9. **Mrs. Humble:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer with reference to the Statement of 24 November 2008, *Official Report*, columns 489-503, on the pre-Budget report, what recent estimate he has made of the funding available to Jobcentre Plus in 2009-10. [266533]

Angela Eagle: The pre-Budget report announced an additional £1.3 billion for the Department of Work and Pensions (DWP). This will ensure that the Government can continue to deliver effective support for the unemployed through Jobcentre Plus, and for those most at risk in the labour market. DWP will publish further details of planned Jobcentre Plus expenditure in May.

Icelandic Bank Accounts

10. **Mr. Bellingham:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer when he next expects to meet the Financial Services Authority to discuss the freezing of Icelandic bank accounts in the UK. [266534]

Ian Pearson: No such meeting has been planned.

UK Economic Performance

11. **Mr. Spring:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what recent discussions his Department has had with the International Monetary Fund on the UK's economic performance. [266535]

Mr. Timms: The IMF holds bilateral discussions with each of its member countries, usually every year as part of its country surveillance function, under Article IV of the IMF's Articles of Agreement. IMF staff last visited London in May 2008 and met with various institutions including HM Treasury to discuss issues relating the to economy. The Government of course continue also to work closely with the IMF and other international partners in responding to the financial crisis.

16. **Gregory Barker:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what recent discussions his Department has had with the International Monetary Fund on the UK's economic performance. [266540]

Ian Pearson: The IMF holds bilateral discussions with each of its member countries, usually every year as part of its country surveillance function, under Article IV of the IMF's Articles of Agreement. IMF staff last visited London in May 2008 and met with various institutions including HM Treasury to discuss issues relating to the economy. The Government of course continue also to work closely with the IMF and other international partners in responding to the financial crisis.

Credit Provision

12. **Mr. Swire:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what further steps his Department plans to take to encourage banks to provide credit to businesses. [266536]

Mr. Timms: On 19 January, the Government announced measures to reinforce the stability of the financial system, to increase confidence and capacity to lend, and in turn to support the recovery of the economy. These build on measures announced on 8 October last year. Details are available at:

http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/press_05_09.htm.

The Government are taking specific action to meet the needs of business. On 14 January 2009, the Government announced a package of support to address the cash flow, credit and capital needs of businesses, building on commitments in the 2008 pre-Budget report. Details are available at:

http://www.businesslink.gov.uk/realhelp/finance

The Government will continue to take all necessary measures to ensure the stability of the financial system, ensure lending to the economy, and support the recovery.

Electronic Games Industry

13. **Mr. Whittingdale:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what recent representations he has had from representatives of the software industry on tax incentives for the electronic games industry. [266537]

Angela Eagle: Following the online petition to the No. 10 website in June 2008 on tax incentives to the electronic games industry, officials have met with representatives of the electronic games industry on a number of occasions to explore the barriers to growth faced by the video games industry.

The Government remain committed to maintaining contact and discussion with the UK industry on a range of issues.

Sir Fred Goodwin

15. **Mr. Mackay** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what discussions his Department had with representatives of the Royal Bank of Scotland in October 2008 on the pension arrangements for Sir Fred Goodwin. [266539]

Ian Pearson: I refer the right hon. Gentleman to the remarks made by my Noble Friend the Financial Services Secretary (Lord Myners) in another place on 2 March, *Official Report*, columns 585-587.

Quantitative Easing

17. **Mr. Amess:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what recent assessment his Department has made of the effects on the economy of quantitative easing measures taken by the Bank of England. [266541]

Ian Pearson: The Chancellor has authorised the independent Monetary Policy Committee to use the Asset Purchase Facility for monetary policy purposes. Asset purchases will increase the flow of money within the economy. The objectives of the Government's monetary policy framework remain unchanged. The MPC's operational target set by the Government remains at 2 per cent., as measured by the 12-month change in the Consumer Prices Index.

Wealth Inequality

18. **Simon Hughes:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of levels of wealth inequality in *(a)* 1997 and *(b)* 2007. [266542]

Mr. Timms: Inequality in wealth distribution can be measured by a statistic ranging from 0 to 100 called the Gini coefficient, where a large value indicates greater inequality than a low value. The Gini coefficient was estimated to be 69 for the year 1997. Figures are not yet available for 2007. A value of 67 was estimated for 2003, the most recent year for which a figure is available.

20. **Andrew George:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the change in the levels of wealth inequality between 1997 and the most recent period for which figures are available; and if he will make a statement. [266544]

Mr. Timms: Inequality in wealth distribution can be measured by a statistic ranging from zero to 100 called the Gini coefficient, where a large value indicates greater inequality than a low value. The Gini coefficient was estimated to be 69 for the year 1997 and the corresponding estimate for 2003, the latest year for which figures are available, was 67.

Poverty Levels

19. **Kerry McCarthy:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what discussions he had at the G20 Finance Ministers' meeting on the effect of the global economic downturn on levels of poverty. [266543]

Mr. Timms: At the meeting of G20 Finance Ministers, which I attended, we discussed a wide range of issues. To help mitigate the impact on the developing world, we agreed to ensure that all multilateral development banks have enough resources, and put them to best use, to help the world's poorest.

We also agreed on the need for an urgent increase in IMF resources, to help developing countries cope with the reversal in international capital flows.

Forecast Growth

21. **Mr. Clappison:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what his most recent forecast is of UK economic growth in 2009-10. [266545]

Ian Pearson: The Government are taking action internationally, nationally and locally to help people and businesses affected by the global credit crunch. The Government will publish updated forecasts at the time of Budget 2009, as is normal practice. This will include a full assessment of developments and prospects for the world and UK economies, based on all relevant factors.

Bank Lending

22. **Tony Lloyd:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what recent discussions he has had with banks on plans to increase lending. [266546]

Ian Pearson: The Government have regular discussions with the lending sector on a wide range of issues. As announced in the 2008 pre-Budget report, the Government have established a new lending panel, bringing together Government, industry and consumer groups to monitor lending to households and businesses.

On 19 January 2009, the Government announced measures designed to reinforce the stability of the financial system, to increase confidence and capacity to lend, and in turn to support the recovery of the economy. These build on the measures announced on 8 October last year. Further information is available at:

http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/press_05_09.htm.

The Government have negotiated quantified lending agreements with the banks participating in the asset protection scheme and extended credit guarantee scheme as announced in January this year. Details of the RBS and Lloyds Banking Group lending agreements are published on the Treasury website.

Ms Keeble: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what steps he is taking to monitor levels of bank lending to businesses and homebuyers. [266538]

Ian Pearson: On 19 January 2009, the Government announced measures designed to reinforce the stability of the financial system, to increase confidence and capacity to lend, and in turn to support the recovery of the economy. These build on the measures announced on 8 October last year. Further information is available at:

http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/press_05_09.htm.

The Government have negotiated quantified lending agreements with the banks participating in the Asset Protection Scheme and extended Credit Guarantee Scheme, as announced in January this year, to determine the amount of lending they will provide to homeowners and businesses. The Government will report to Parliament annually on the delivery of these agreements.

As announced in the 2008 pre-Budget report, the Government have established a new Lending Panel, which will improve monitoring of lending to households and businesses. The remit of the panel is set out in the 2008 pre-Budget report.

Premium Car Industry

23. **Mr. Jim Cunningham:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will discuss with representatives of the premium car industry the effects of changes to their write-down allowances on their businesses. [266547]

Angela Eagle: Following two rounds of consultation, the Government intend that the rate at which businesses get tax relief for expenditure on cars will be determined by a car's carbon dioxide emissions and not its costs. The Exchequer Secretary to the Treasury has held general discussions with representatives of the car industry.

Banks: Ireland

Derek Conway: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what recent discussions he has had with his Irish counterpart on *(a)* the level of protection for UK citizens with deposits in Irish banks and *(b)* contingency plans in the event of failure of Irish banks. [266258]

Ian Pearson: Treasury Ministers and officials have discussions with a wide variety of organisations and international partners. As was the case with previous Administrations, it is not the Government's practice to provide details of all such discussions.

Departmental Buildings

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what *(a)* grade II, *(b)* grade II* and *(c)* grade I listed buildings have been owned by his Department in each of the last three years. [266860]

Angela Eagle: I refer the hon. Gentleman to the answer I gave the hon. Member for Romford (Andrew Rosindell) on 1 May 2007, *Official Report*, column 1613W.

Departmental Public Appointments

Julia Goldsworthy: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer which former *(a)* hon. Members who left Parliament since 1997 and *(b)* Members of the House of Lords from each party have been appointed to positions on public bodies within his Department's responsibility; and who made each appointment. [266794]

Angela Eagle: This information is not held centrally. Information on board membership and remuneration is published in individual bodies' annual reports and accounts.

Departmental Redundancy

Justine Greening: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) how many staff in his Department left under *(a)* involuntary and *(b)* voluntary staff exit schemes in each year since 2005-06; how many of them in each case were paid (i) up to £25,000, (ii) £25,001 to £50,000, (iii) £50,001 to £75,000, (iv) £75,001 to £100,000 and (v) over £100,000 in the year before they left; and how much (A) was spent in each of those years and (B) is planned to be spent on such schemes in (1) 2008-09 and (2) 2009-10 by (y) his Department and (z) each of his Department's agencies; [242248]

(2) how many of his Department's staff who left under *(a)* an involuntary and *(b)* a voluntary exit scheme in each year since 2005-06 received a severance package of (i) up to £25,000, (ii) £25,001 to £50,000, (iii) £50,001 to £75,000, (iv) £75,001 to £100,000 and (v) over £100,000; and if he will make a statement. [242249]

Angela Eagle: Information on involuntary and voluntary staff exits, salaries in the year prior to departure and the value of packages by band could not be provided within the disproportionate cost threshold.

The following table sets out the relevant exit costs since 2005-06 for the Treasury and its agencies.

			£000
	2005-06	*2006-07*	*2007-08*
HM Treasury	973	1,140	2,079
Debt Management Office	8	4	149
Office of Government Commerce	1,030	3,358	10,387
OGC.buyingsolutions	116	1,138	486

Details of spending plans for 2008-09 and 2009-10 are not available.

Departmental Training

Grant Shapps: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) what training courses *(a)* civil servants and *(b)* Ministers in his Department have undertaken in the last 12 months; [266216]

(2) what training courses were available to *(a)* civil servants and *(b)* Ministers in his Department in the last 12 months. [266277]

Angela Eagle: The Treasury offers a range of internal training courses for officials to meet organisational priorities and which form part of the Professional Skills for Government (PSG) framework. Due to delegated team budgets for training spend it is not possible to report on all training courses that are undertaken by or made available to civil servants in the last 12 months; this information is not held centrally and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

With regard to training undertaken by Treasury Ministers, I refer the hon. Member to the responses I provided to similar questions on 18 January, *Official Report*, column 585W; 11 February, *Official Report*, columns 2101-2102W; 5 March, *Official Report*, column 1811W; and 25 March, *Official Report*, columns 405-406W.

EU Budget

Mike Penning: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the *(a)* gross and *(b)* net contribution made by the United Kingdom to the EU was in (i) the most recent year for which figures are available, (ii) 2004, (iii) 1999, (iv) 1994 and (v) 1989. [266856]

Ian Pearson: Details of the United Kingdom's gross, after taking account of the United Kingdom abatement, and net contributions to the EC Budget can be found in HM Treasury's annual European Community Finances White Paper. Table 3, page 51 of the 2008 White Paper (Cm 7462) of 10 September 2008, which is available in the House Library and also at the following website:

http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/documents/international_issues/eu_information/int_eu_statefraud.cfm

contains these data in respect of years 2002 to 2007, with an estimate for 2008. Data for earlier years can be found in the equivalent table of previous editions of the White Paper.

Financial Services: Crown Dependencies

Mr. B[illegible]y: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the Prime Minister's oral statement of 23 March 2009, *Official Report*, on Spring European Council, what assessment he has made of British *(a)* Crown dependencies' and *(b)* overseas territories' compliance with OECD standards on financial transparency and money laundering. [267167]

Ian Pearson: HM Treasury considers the standard of the money laundering systems in the Crown dependencies and Gibraltar to be equivalent to European Union standards, as embodied in the third money laundering directive. Discussions are under way with the other overseas territories with major financial services sectors to assess the standards that they have achieved.

In addition, the independent review into British offshore financial centres by Michael Foot is looking at the immediate and long-term challenges facing British offshore financial centres in the current economic climate, including financial supervision and transparency.

High Speed Two

Stephen Hammond: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many staff of his Department are members of High Speed Two Ltd in each of the next five years. [264251]

Yvette Cooper: No Treasury staff are staff or board members of High Speed Two Ltd.

Stephen Hammond: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how regularly his Department receives *(a)* information and *(b)* updates from High Speed Two Ltd. [264252]

Yvette Cooper: High Speed Two Ltd has been asked by the Department for Transport to produce a report at the end of 2009. It is not expected that an interim report will be produced before that date.

Inheritance: Regulation

Sir Michael Spicer: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer with reference to the Financial Services Authority's response to the Twelfth Report from the Treasury Committee, Session 2007-08, HC 1132, on inherited estates, what progress the Financial Services Authority has made in its review of the regulation of the inherited estates regime; and if he will make a statement. [266711]

Ian Pearson: The regulation of insurance companies' inherited estates is a matter for the Financial Services Authority (FSA), which sets the rules covering the management of with-profits funds. The FSA published a consultation on proposals for a specific reform of its inherited estate rules on 3 June 2008 and published a further consultation on revised proposals on 23 February 2009.

Members: Correspondence

Mr. Burns: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer when a reply will be sent to the hon. Member for West Chelmsford's letter of 6 January 2009, PO Ref: 5/04009/2009, concerning his constituent, Mrs Rosemary Beenham, of Broomfield, Chelmsford. [266656]

Ian Pearson: A reply has been sent to the hon. Member.

Personal Savings: Interest Rates

Mr. Dunne: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what steps his Department is taking to mitigate the effects on savers of low interest rates. [266526]

Yvette Cooper: The Government recognise the importance of saving in providing people with independence throughout their lives, security if things go wrong and comfort in retirement.

The Government have improved incentives to save by introducing the Child Trust Fund and Individual Savings Accounts. A person using their full ISA allowance to date has been able to amass up to £70,200 of tax-advantaged savings since 1999. The Saving Gateway will be introduced nationally in 2010 to promote saving among working age people on lower incomes. There are also a range of other initiatives to help people to save, including the introduction of Personal Accounts.

Private Finance Initiative

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the written ministerial statement of 3 March 2009, *Official Report*, columns 47-48WS, on Government infrastructure investment, what reduction in fees agreed with private sector companies for the delivery of Private Finance Initiative (PFI) contracts will arise from the decision that certain PFI schemes are to receive Government loans in lieu of debt finance. [262648]

Yvette Cooper: It is intended that the Government will lend to PFI projects on commercial terms, alongside other commercial lenders and/or the European Investment Bank.

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the written ministerial statement of 3 March 2009, *Official Report*, columns 47-48WS, on Government infrastructure investment, whether underspent and unallocated funds from one Department may be used to fund another Department's private finance initiative infrastructure projects. [262784]

Yvette Cooper: Funding for lending to those PFI projects that cannot raise sufficient debt finance on acceptable terms will be provided from across Government, including initially from unallocated funds and departmental underspends on previous projects. The exact funding requirements will be determined by market conditions. Where necessary, the Treasury will provide additional resources funded from additional borrowing. An update will be provided at the Budget.

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the written ministerial statement of 3 March 2009, *Official Report*, columns 47-48WS, on Government infrastructure investment, what his most recent estimate is of the amount of underspent and unallocated funds for each department available to provide additional finance for public infrastructure projects. [262785]

Yvette Cooper: Government Departments have set aside funding for a number of projects. An update will be provided at the Budget.

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the written ministerial statement of 3 March 2009, *Official Report*, column 47WS, on Government infrastructure investment, whether the proposals will require state aid clearance at EU level. [262793]

Yvette Cooper: Article 87(1) of the EC treaty sets out criteria for a state aid to be present.

The Government will lend to private finance initiative (PFI) projects on commercial terms, alongside other commercial lenders and/or the European Investment Bank.

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what steps he has taken to obtain EU state aid approval in respect of his proposals to provide debt finance to providers of private finance initiative projects. [263571]

Yvette Cooper: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given on 13 March 2009, *Official Report*, column 807W.

Gregory Barker: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what recent assessment he has made of the availability of private finance initiative credits for energy infrastructure projects. [265299]

Yvette Cooper: PFI credits were assigned to Departments as part of the comprehensive spending review, and its predecessors, to support PFI projects in local authorities. None were made available for energy infrastructure as policy in this area is conducted at a national rather than a local level.

Public Expenditure

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what capital expenditure projects have been brought forward under the Government's acceleration programme; and what the *(a)* (i) original and (ii) current planned start dates and *(b)* value of each project is. [illegible]

Yvette Cooper: The projects to be supported by the Government's £3 billion capital spending fiscal stimulus are detailed in the pre-Budget report 2008. Much of the advanced spending is on bringing forward ongoing projects without a fixed start date. Where this is the case I have indicated the years in which the spending has been re-profiled between. Prior to the PBR announcement, some projects were still in the planning process and so had no confirmed original start date.

In devolved areas it is for the devolved Administrations to decide how to spend any agreed re-profiled capital spending.

	Fiscal year		
Department	*Original start date*	*Current start date*	*Cost and description*
DFT		2009-10	£300 million for 200 new rail carriages.
	2011-12	2009-10	£100 million for the A46 upgrade.
	2010-11	2009-10	£300 million for strategic road network upgrades.
DCLG	2010-11	2008-09	£130 million for Decent Homes programmes.
	2010-11	2009-10	£120 million for Decent Homes programmes.
	2010-11	2009-10	£150 million for social housing.
	2010-11	2008-09	£100 million for infrastructure and regeneration.
	2010-11	2009-10	£100 million for regional development agencies.
	2010-11	2009-10	£175 million for LA major repairs bids.
DCSF	2010-11	2009-10	£499 million allocated to 116 local authorities for their schools capital spending programmes.
	2010-11	2009-10	£390 million allocated to directly to schools.
	2010-11	2009-10	£30 million for play facilities.
DECC	2010-11	2009-10	£50 million for the Warm Front programme.
DEFRA	2010-11	2009-10	£20 million for flood defence advancement.
	2010-11	2009-10	£5 million for waterways investment.
HO	2010-11	2009-10	£20 million to improve the National Police Improvement Agency and Serious and Organised Crime Agency estates.
DH	n/a	2009-10	£100 million to upgrade GP surgeries to training practices.
DIUS	2010-11	2008-09	£5 million for Science and Research infrastructure
	2010-11	2009-10	£75 million for Science and Research infrastructure
	2010-11	2008-09	£52 million for Higher Education building projects.
	2010-11	2009-10	£200 million for Higher Education building projects.
	2010-11	2008-09	£110 million to Further Education and Skills to support the Building Colleges for the Future programme.

The relevant Departments will announce further details of this spending in the coming weeks.

Reoffenders: Finance

Alun Michael: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what discussions he has had with the Secretary of State for Justice on methods of budgeting for services designed to reduce levels of reoffending. [266531]

Yvette Cooper: The Treasury is represented at the Inter-Ministerial Group on reducing reoffending and is therefore in regular contact with the Ministry of Justice on the subject. The Government's budgeting framework is set out in the Consolidated Budgeting Guidance.

Smuggling: Tobacco

David Taylor: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much was allocated to HM Revenue and Customs' work on tobacco smuggling in each of the last five years for which figures are available. [illegible]

Angela Eagle: The information requested is not available.

However, HMRC does make retrospective estimates of the staff years used on tobacco work. I refer the hon. Member to the answer given on 12 March 2009, *Official Report*, column 722W, in reply to his previous question on the subject.

Taxation: Business

Sir Michael Spicer: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what recent representations he has received from representatives of businesses on tax incentives for self-financed credit insurance schemes; and if he will make a statement. [illegible]

Ian Pearson: Treasury Ministers and officials receive representations from a wide variety of organisations in the public and private sectors as part of the process of policy development and delivery. As was the case with previous Administrations, it is not the Government's practice to provide details of all such representations.

VAT

Mrs. May: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the answer of 10 March 2009, *Official Report*, column 263W, on VAT, what the other groups are which account for the remaining 15 per cent. of savings to taxpayers. [illegible]

Mr. Timms: The full breakdown relating to the answer of 10 March 2009, *Official Report*, column 263W can be obtained from published data on the gross VAT Theoretical Tax Liability in table B.1 of Measuring Indirect Tax Gaps 2008

www.hmrc.gov.uk/pbr2008/mtg-2408.pdf

Shares of the components can be derived from comparing the components to the gross VAT Theoretical Tax Liability in that table.

BUSINESS, ENTERPRISE AND REGULATORY REFORM

Construction: Government Assistance

Mr. Barstow: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what steps his Department is taking to maintain and protect *(a)* skills and *(b)* capability in the construction industry during the recession; and if he will make a statement. [262594]

Mr. Simon: I have been asked to reply.

The Government are working closely with all sides of the construction industry to mitigate the impact of the economic downturn. Skill levels and training capability are protected through the continuing levy arrangements directed by the Construction Industry Training Board. Over the next three years the levy is anticipated to rise between £535 million to £545 million for training in the construction sector.

In recent months we have also taken a number of specific measures. We have set up an Apprenticeship Task Force with employers and trade unions to see how we can expand and improve apprenticeships within construction. We have established an Apprentice Matching Service to find alternative training places for redundant apprentices. Construction was one of the first sectors to agree a Train to Gain compact, which offers additional flexibilities within the Train to Gain service for employers. In addition, through the last pre-Budget report we announced bringing forward £3 billion of capital spending for housing, education, transport and other construction projects.

When Departments and agencies let a new contract there is now an expectation that successful contractors will provide training for apprentices.

Departmental Cleaning Services

John McDonnell: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform which contractors his Department uses to undertake cleaning duties; and what the hourly rates of pay are for cleaners working in his Department. [258506]

Mr. McFadden: GBM Services provide cleaning services to buildings on this Department's HQ estate. The current hourly rate of pay for their cleaners is £5.90p.

Departmental Consultants

John McDonnell: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many consultants are employed by each bargaining unit of *(a)* his Department, *(b)* its agencies and *(c)* its non-departmental public bodies; what work is being undertaken by each; and what the (i) length and (ii) value of each contract is. [258507]

Mr. McFadden: I have approached the chief executives of the Insolvency Service and Companies House agencies and they will respond to my hon. Friend directly.

The information requested of the Department and its NDPBs is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Letter from Gareth Jones, dated 26 March 2009:

I am responding on behalf of Companies House to your Parliamentary Question tabled on 20 February 2009, UIN 258507, to the Minister of State for Business Enterprise and Regulatory Reform

Companies House currently has no relevant consultancy contracts in place.

Letter from Stephen Speed, dated 26 March 2009:

I refer to your question to ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform, how many consultants are employed by each bargaining unit of (a) his Department, (b) its agencies and (c) its non-departmental public bodies; what work is being undertaken by each; and what the (i) length and (ii) value of each contract is.

The Minister of State has asked me to reply on behalf of The Insolvency Service.

PricewaterhouseCoopers have been employed for a period of 3 months (January 2009 - March 2009) to undertake an Equal Pay Review and Pay Review of The Insolvency Service's pay and reward system. The cost is £58,000.

Departmental Data Protection

Paul Holmes: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many members of staff in his Department have been *(a)* investigated, *(b)* suspended and *(c)* dismissed for losing (i) memory sticks, (ii) laptop computers, (iii) desktop computers and (iv) mobile telephones belonging to his Department in each year since 1997. [248248]

Mr. McFadden: There have been five investigations into the circumstances in which the items in question were lost or stolen. No staff have been suspended or dismissed as a result.

Departmental Internet

Mr. Rob Wilson: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform if he will place in the Library a copy of each contract his Department has commissioned with external companies to deliver public services provided by his Department over high speed broadband internet connections. [262769]

Mr. McFadden: The Department has not commissioned or contracted with external companies to deliver high speed broadband for the provision of its public services.

Departmental Postal Services

Mr. Gordon Prentice: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many and what percentage of letters sent by his Department were given to *(a)* the Royal Mail and *(b)* another postal services provider for delivery in the last 12 months; and if he will make a statement. [259971]

Mr. McFadden: During the 12-month period up to the end of January 2009, BERR sent 100 per cent. of its external UK letters (approximately 48,000 items) via Royal Mail from its central London buildings. These figures include mail from DIUS who share our building at Kingsgate House, Victoria Street. Information on items sent from BERR offices outside of central London is not available centrally.

Departmental Recruitment

Justine Greening: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform pursuant to the answer of 25 February 2009, *Official Report*, columns 832-3W, on departmental recruitment, what estimate he has made of the annual salary cost of the new *(a)* permanent, *(b)* temporary and *(c)* agency staff recruited in each year since 2005-06. [264314]

Mr. McFadden: Permanent new recruits are staff employed by the Department on a permanent civil service contract. Temporary new recruits are staff recruited on a short term or fixed term civil service contract.

The annual salary cost of new permanent and temporary staff could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Agency staff are new recruits that have joined the Department but are not on a civil service contract and are employed by a third party. The arrangements for employing agency staff in the Department are delegated locally to line management units. To provide information on their salary costs could therefore be done only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Translation Services

Mr. Frank Field: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many language translators are employed in each of his Department's *(a)* executive agencies and *(b)* non-Ministerial departments; and what the cost of translating services provided by such people was in the latest period for which information is available. [257153]

Mr. McFadden: This Department's Executive agencies, Companies House and the Insolvency Service, do not employ language translators.

This Department's non-ministerial departments are broken down as follows:

Office of Fair Trading spent £12,167 on translation services in 2007-08.

Postcomm, the postal services regulator, does not employ language translators, though as part of its duties under the Welsh Language Scheme it does maintain an arrangement with the Central Office of Information (COI) to provide translation services mainly in response to correspondence submitted in Welsh. These services are estimated to account for no more than £200 per year. In addition, in 2008, Postcomm published a Welsh language version of its annual report and the summary of its Post Office Network Report on its website at a total cost of around £3,500.

Export Credits Guarantee Department does not employ any language translators.

Eco-towns: St Austell

Grant Shapps: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how much the South West Regional Development Agency has allocated to the St. Austell eco-town development; and if he will make a statement. [265285]

Mr. McFadden: The South West Regional Development Agency has not allocated any funding to the proposed St. Austell eco-town development. The South West Regional Development Agency is working with local partners in St. Austell and the surrounding area who are developing a framework for investment in the local economy.

EU Internal Trade

Mr. Byers: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what his Department's latest estimate is of the number of *(a)* UK nationals employed in other EU member states and *(b)* citizens of other EU member states employed in the UK under the terms of the EU Posted Workers Directive. [255463]

Mr. McFadden *[holding answer 9 February 2009]*: The latest figures on the number of EU workers who are employed under the terms of the Posted Workers are for 2006 and are not complete. They do not include postings from Spain to the UK, but the number of postings from the UK to all other EU countries includes postings from the UK to Spain. In addition, because these are the 2006 figures, which is before Bulgaria and Romania joined the EU, there is no information for these countries.

Based on this incomplete information, there are more UK workers posted under the posted workers directive—around 47,000 than other EU nationals posted to the UK—around 37,000.

We also have other estimates on the numbers of people working in other countries from the OECD and Eurostat.

The latest data from Eurostat shows that in 2007, around 3.4 per cent. of total UK employment was accounted for by nationals from the other EU-27 countries including 1.8 per cent. from the other EU-15 countries. This equates to just under 1 million EU-27 (excluding the UK) nationals and around 527,000 EU-15 (excluding the UK) nationals working in the UK.

We do not have the 2007 data for the number of UK workers employed in the EU. However, according to the OECD analysis of the 2000 round of censuses, which are the latest figures available, around 581,000 UK born live in the EU-15 (excluding the UK), of which around 324,000 are employed. Total employment in the EU-15 (excluding the UK) was around 131 million, therefore around 0.2 per cent. of total EU-15 (excluding the UK) employment was accounted for by UK workers.

The 2000 OECD work also showed that around 1.2 million EU-15 (excluding the UK) nationals live in the UK, of which around 602,000 are employed. Total employment in the UK was around 27 million, therefore around 2.3 per cent. of total UK employment was accounted for by nationals from the other EU-15 countries. According to the Labour Force Survey (LFS) for 2000—which is on a slightly different basis[1]—there were around 470,000 EU-15 (excluding the UK) nationals, 1.7 per cent. of the total.

Since the OECD only reports data for its members and these do not include all of the EU member states, statistics for the EU-27 are unavailable.

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[1] The LFS is a based on a sample, whereas the OECD is a census, in addition, the OECD defined its data according to foreign born, while the LFS data presented are defined by nationality.

Members: Correspondence

Sir Michael Spicer: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform when the Minister for Trade plans to reply to the letter from the hon. Member for West Worcestershire of 25 November 2008 on the export of products to India. [256930]

Mr. McFadden *[holding answer 23 February 2009]*: I responded to the hon. Member on 19 February 2009.

Public Holidays

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform whether the Government plans to establish any additional public holidays. [260940]

Mr. McFadden: The pattern of bank holidays is well established and accepted but we keep suggestions of additional holidays under consideration.

Radio Frequencies

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform (1) when the programme making and special events sector was informed that it may not retain access to the ultra high frequency frequencies it currently uses; and whether a decision has been made on which ultra high frequency frequencies the sector may use in future; [263353]

(2) if he will ensure that existing programme making and special events users of ultra high frequency channels to be cleared of these services are provided with adequate replacement spectrum before the digital dividend auctions take place. [263354]

Mr. McFadden: The matters raised are the responsibility of the independent regulator, the Office of Communications (Ofcom), which is accountable to Parliament rather than Ministers. Accordingly, I have asked the chief executive of Ofcom to reply directly to the hon. Member. Copies of the chief executive's letter will be placed in the Libraries of the House.

Telecommunications: Licensing

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how much his Department received from Ofcom in remitted licence fees in each of the last five years. [249675]

Mr. McFadden *[holding answer 20 January 2009]*: Licence fees levied by the Office of Communications (Ofcom) arising from the issue or renewal of licences under the Wireless Telegraphy Acts are remitted to this Department for payment to the Consolidated Fund. In each of the last five years Wireless Telegraphy receipts received were:

	£
2003-04	20,025,235
2004-05	140,367,674
2005-06	165,492,000
2006-07	170,443,000
2007-08	173,607,000

In accordance with section 400 of the Communications Act 2003 statements prepared by Ofcom at the end of each financial year are laid before Parliament.

Written Questions: Government Responses

Mr. Vara: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform when he expects to answer question 249140, on answers to parliamentary questions, tabled on 14 January 2009. [261533]

Mr. McFadden: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave on 25 March 2009, *Official Report*, column reference 525W.

HOME DEPARTMENT

Antisocial Behaviour: Fixed Penalties

Paul Holmes: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people aged *(a)* between 10 and 14, *(b)* between 15 and 19, *(c)* between 20 and 30, *(d)* between 31 and 50, *(e)* between 51 and 64 and *(f)* over 65 years who received a penalty notice and paid the resulting fine had personal information stored on the Police National Computer on the latest date for which figures are available. [263808]

Mr. Alan Campbell: This information is not held centrally.

British Nationality: Applications

Mrs. Gillan: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many applications for British citizenship are *(a)* being processed and *(b)* awaiting processing, broken down by applicant country of origin. [264661]

Mr. Woolas: The following table in provides an analysis of the current British citizenship application work in progress recorded on the UKBA computer system. This includes applications received on or before 7 March.

Applications received after that date are awaiting input and UKBA is unable to report upon these data until it has captured the information on the application form electronically. Therefore the information requested in part *(b)*, could be obtained only by the detailed examination of individual case records at disproportionate cost.

The information has been provided from local management information and is not a National Statistic. As such, it should be treated as provisional and therefore subject to change.

Nationality work in progress by country of birth

Country of birth	*Total*
Grand total	27,525
Pakistan	5,060
Bangladesh	2,595
Somalia	2,245
Iraq	1,860
United Kingdom	1,715
Afghanistan	1,585
India	1,005
Turkey	675
Sri Lanka	540
Iran (Islamic Republic of)	530
Philippines	485
Zimbabwe	460
Russian Federation	460
Nigeria	425
Algeria	385
South Africa	360
Congo Democratic Republic	315
China	305
Jamaica	275
Federal Republic of Yugoslavia	220
Kosovo	210
Angola	205
Ghana	200
Morocco	195
Kenya	195
Egypt	190
Sierra Leone	180
Yemen	175
United States of America	155
Rwanda	145
Ethiopia	140
Kosovo	140
Albania	125
Hong Kong	125
Sudan	120
Libya (Arab Republic)	120
Republic of Serbia	120
The Syrian Arab Republic	115
Nepal	105
Australia	100
Saudi Arabia	100
Uganda	100
Eritrea	100
Ukraine	95
Bulgaria	95
Thailand	95
Kuwait	90
Lebanon	80
Colombia	70
Tunisia	65
United Arab Emirates	60
Yugoslavia	55
Zambia	55
Burundi	55
Canada	55
Malaysia	55
Trinidad and Tobago	55
Democratic Republic of the Congo	50
USSR	50
Jordan	50
Vietnam	50
New Zealand	45
United Rep of Tanzania	45
Ecuador	45
Cote D'Ivoire (Ivory Coast)	40
Brazil	40
Cameroon	40
Palestinian Authority	40
Gambia	40
Unknown—officially designated	40
Mauritius	40
Romania	35
France	35
South Korea (Rep of Korea)	35
Bahrain	35
Congo	30
Poland	30
Croatia	30
Germany	30
Guyana	25
Israel	25
Macedonia (Former Yugoslav Republic of)	25
Bosnia and Herzegovina	25
Georgia	20
Belarus	20

Nationality work in progress by country of birth

Country of birth	*Total*
Libya	20
Portugal	20
Italy	20
	20
Malawi	20
Cyprus	15
Liberia	15
Singapore	15
Azerbaijan	15
Greece	15
Kazakhstan	15
Spain	15
St. Lucia	15
Venezuela	15
Ireland	15
Myanmar	15
Switzerland	15
Peru	10
Guinea	10
Serbia and Montenegro	10
Armenia	10
Moldova, Republic of	10
Mozambique	10
Republic of Montenegro	10
St Vincent and the Grenadines	10
Togo	10
Uzbekistan	10
Barbados	10
Lithuania	10
Romania	10
Taiwan (Republic of China)	10
Argentina	10
Cuba	10
Estonia	10
Netherlands	10
Botswana	5
Denmark	5
Dominican Republic	5
Grenada	5
Hungary	5
Indonesia	5
Qatar	5
Senegal	5
Slovakia	5
Japan	5
Latvia	5
Malta	5
Mexico	5
Belgium	5
Chile	5
Guinea-Bissau	5
Mongolia	5
Namibia	5
Oman	5
Bhutan	5
Burma	5
Chad	5
Democratic People's Republic of Korea	5
Fiji	5
Guatemala	5
Kyrgyzstan	5
Panama	5
Swaziland	5
Sweden	5
Anguilla	[1]—
Antigua and Barbuda	[1]—
Belize	[1]—
Bolivia	[1]—
Cambodia	[1]—
Czech Republic	[1]—
Equatorial Guinea	[1]—
Finland	[1]—
French Guiana	[1]—
Luxembourg	[1]—
Madagascar	[1]—
Montenegro	[1]—
Niger	[1]—
Seychelles	[1]—
St. Kitts and Nevis	[1]—
Tonga	[1]—
Turkmenistan	[1]—
Awaiting country to be added to list	[1]—
Benin	[1]—
Bermuda	[1]—
Brunei	[1]—
Burkina Faso	[1]—
Cambodia (Kampuchea)	[1]—
Congo (Brazzaville)	[1]—
Djibouti	[1]—
Dominica	[1]—
Gabon	[1]—
Haiti	[1]—
Honduras	[1]—
Iceland	[1]—
Lao People's Democratic Republic	[1]—
Liechtenstein	[1]—
Macao Special Administrative Region of China	[1]—
Mali	[1]—
Mauritania	[1]—
New Caledonia	[1]—
Norway	[1]—
Palau	[1]—
Rhodesia	[1]—
Sao Tome and Principe	[1]—
Solomon Islands	[1]—
Soviet Union (USSR)	[1]—
Suriname	[1]—

[1] Negligible, i.e. two or less

Note:

Figures have been rounded to the nearest five.

Source:

Local Management Information

Crime

David T.C. Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people have been arrested on suspicion of the offence of conspiracy to cause misconduct in public office in each of the last three years. [244234]

Mr. Woolas *[holding answer 16 December 2008]*: I refer the hon. Member to the reply of my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Justice (Mr. Straw), to the hon. and learned Member for Beaconsfield (Mr. Grieve) on 15 December 2008, *Official Report*, column 478W.

Damian Green

Andrew Mackinlay: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to her contribution on 4 December 2008, *Official Report*, column 151, consequent upon the Point of Order raised by the hon. Member for Ashford, if she will place in the Library a copy of the statement made by the Metropolitan police to which she referred; what discussions she has had with the Metropolitan police on the description of the alleged offence for which the hon. Member for Ashford was arrested; what explanation the Metropolitan police have offered for the discrepancy between her statement at column 135 and the contents of the warrant issued for the arrest of the hon. Member for Ashford; what communications she has made to the hon. Member for Ashford since her statement; and if she will make a statement. [242300]

Mr. Coaker *[holding answer 10 December 2008]:* I have placed in the Library a copy of the statement made by the Metropolitan police from which my right hon. Friend, the Home Secretary, was quoting when she referred to the alleged offence for which the hon. Member for Ashford (Damian Green) was arrested. In response to the hon. Member for Ashford's suggestion that my right hon. Friend's statement contained a factual inaccuracy my right hon. Friend sought clarification from Bob Quick, Assistant Commissioner of the Metropolitan police. He confirmed that the press lines from which she quoted were correct and that it is not unusual for a person to be given the abridged form of an offence as an explanation for the grounds of arrest. My right hon. Friend shared this explanation with the hon. Member for Ashford and placed a copy of Assistant Commissioner Quick's letter in the House Library.

Mr. Cash: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what plans she has to make the Metropolitan police's report on its investigation regarding the hon. Member for Ashford (Damian Green) available to all hon. Members. [244099]

Mr. Coaker: The publication of the report is a matter for the Metropolitan police.

Departmental Data Protection

Paul Holmes: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many civil servants in her Department have been *(a)* investigated, *(b)* suspended and *(c)* dismissed for (i) losing and (ii) deliberately disclosing (A) data stored on departmental equipment and (B) confidential information in each year since 1997. [242930]

Mr. Woolas: The information is not available in the form requested, but it is normal practice to investigate all significant losses and leaks of information and, if appropriate, to take disciplinary or other action against any individual found to have acted improperly or unlawfully.

Anne Main: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what scanning for vulnerabilities her Department conducts of each of its IT devices; what method is used for IT device scans; and how many vulnerabilities have been detected as a result of such scans in the last 12 months. [259807]

Mr. Woolas: The Security Policy Framework, the Data Handling Report and the National Information Assurance Strategy produced by the Cabinet Office provide a strategic framework for protecting information that Government handle and put in place a set of mandatory measures which Departments must adhere to.

It is not in the interest of the security of the Department, or that of the public, to disclose detailed information pertaining to electronic breaches of security of Department's IT systems. Disclosing such information would enable criminals and those who would attempt to cause disruptive threats to the Department to deduce how to conduct attacks and therefore potentially enhance their capability to carry out such attacks.

Departmental Disclosure of Information

Dr. Julian Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if she will publish a list of the systematic leaks from her Department referred to in her statement of 4 December 2008, *Official Report*, columns 134-36, as having led to her to approve referring the matter to the police; and whether any of the leaks listed concerned issues of national security. [241406]

Mr. Woolas *[holding answer 9 December 2008]:* I refer the hon. Member to the statement my right hon. Friend the Home Secretary made on 4 December 2008, *Official Report*, column 134WS.

Mr. Gordon Prentice: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many internal Home Office leak inquiries there have been in each of the last three years; and how many leakers were identified. [241410]

Mr. Woolas *[holding answer 9 December 2008]:* 20 formal investigations into alleged unauthorised disclosures of information from the Home Office have taken place between 15 September 2005 and 15 September 2008. We do not release details of disciplinary actions following leak investigations, but as was explained to the Home Affairs Select Committee in their evidence session on 20 January, it was the failure to identify the source of these leaks which lead to the matter being referred to the police.

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the cost has been of the investigation into the leaking of documents from her Department. [243870]

Mr. Coaker: The cost of the ongoing investigation into unauthorised disclosures is a matter for the Metropolitan police.

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department on which occasions since June 2007 her Department has recorded an unauthorised disclosure of information; whether a leak inquiry was established in each case; and whether any person was subsequently disciplined. [247789]

Mr. Woolas: From June 2007 to 1 January 2009 there have been 12 investigations into alleged unauthorised disclosures. The outcome of those investigations has now been handed over to the police and is the subject of current investigations.

Departmental Electricity Generation

Simon Hughes: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what *(a)* capital and *(b)* maintenance expenditure her Department has incurred on standby diesel generators for back-up electricity supply of her Department's estate in each year since March 1997. [266412]

Mr. Woolas *[holding answer 25 March 2009]:* My Department does not contract directly for the provision of standby diesel generators but procures building maintenance services through wider facilities management or operational service contractors.

Departmental Public Consultation

Mr. Vara: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many public consultations her Department has conducted in the last 12 months; how long each consultation was open for; how many responses were received in each case; and what the cost of conducting each consultation was. [259696]

Mr. Woolas: Public consultation exercises run by the Home Office follow the Government's Code of Practice on Consultation which sets out the basic principles for conducting effective formal written consultations. As reported in the Home Office Departmental Report 2008 during 2007-08 we published 17 public consultations. Out of these, 15 met the minimum 12-week consultation period and two lasted longer than 12 weeks. The departmental report for 2009 which will be published in the near future will set out the position for consultations published in 2008-09. The costs of running consultation exercises are met from within existing departmental resources. It would not be possible retrospectively to separate out the costs which could be attributed to a consultation from the normal day-to-day departmental business. All public consultation documents that have been initiated by the Home Office and related response documents, which normally include details of the number of responses received, can be found at the following websites listed:

www.homeoffice.gov.uk/about-us/haveyoursay/

http://www.bia.homeoffice.gov.uk/aboutus/consultations/

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/documents/ho-annual-report-08/

Departmental Temporary Employment

Justine Greening: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what her Department's policy is on the renewal of the contracts of *(a)* temporary and *(b)* agency staff. [264308]

Mr. Woolas: Temporary and agency workers should be used only as a short-term solution to fill a particular need that cannot be met by permanent staff. Unless there are exceptional circumstances supported by a compelling business case, all temporary and agency staff should have their booking ended by the time they have worked for the Department for 11 months, or have accrued 11 months continuous service within the Home Office and other Government Departments. The policy to restrict to 11 months has been promulgated by the Cabinet Office and is now departmental policy.

Deportation

Damian Green: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many scheduled deportations were cancelled within *(a)* one month and *(b)* one week of the deportation date in 2008. [263201]

Mr. Woolas: The system used by the UK Border Agency to record details of removal directions (RDs) records the date and reason for any cancellation. However, it is not possible to cross-reference the date for which the RDs were set with the date they were subsequently cancelled. The information requested could only be obtained by the detailed examination of individual case records at disproportionate cost

Domestic Violence

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) how many *(a)* women and *(b)* teenage girls have reported being victims of domestic violence in (i) England and Wales, (ii) the North East, (iii) Tees Valley district and (iv) Middlesbrough South and East Cleveland constituency in the last 12 months; [265342]

(2) how many *(a)* men and *(b)* teenage boys have reported being victims of domestic violence in (i) England and Wales, (ii) the North East, (iii) Tees Valley district and (iv) Middlesbrough South and East Cleveland constituency in the last 12 months. [265343]

Mr. Alan Campbell: The information requested is not centrally available except that relating to adults aged 16 and over resident in England and Wales.

From the information collected centrally on police recorded crime, it is not possible to identify the number of cases of domestic violence reported to the police. Such offences are not specifically defined by law and details of the individual circumstances of offences are not collected.

However, the British Crime Survey (BCS), which includes crimes not reported to the police, routinely provides information on the number of incidents of domestic violence in England and Wales. Latest estimates from the 2007-08 BCS show that 288,000 incidents of domestic violence were committed against women and 52,000 incidents against men in England and Wales. The BCS sample is insufficient to provide robust estimates broken down by age or sex at regional or lower geographical levels. It should also be noted that the BCS estimates relate to adults aged 16 years and over and it is not possible to provide separate estimates for teenagers.

It should be noted that BCS estimates are known to understate the true extent of domestic violence due to the fact that some respondents may be unwilling to reveal such experiences in the context of a face-to-face interview in their own homes.

Entry Clearances: Families

Mr. Carswell: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many applications were *(a)* received and *(b)* granted for family visit visas in each of the last six years. [264751]

Mr. Woolas: The information requested is given in the following table. Reliable data for years prior to 2004 are not available from our global visa database.

	Applications	*Issued*
2004	354,413	248,268
2005	457,571	331,143
2006	502,197	376,415
2007	473,553	354,083
2008	414,159	312,524

Notes:
1. Data are by calendar year.
2. This information is unpublished and should be treated as provisional.

Source:
Central Reference System

Entry Clearances: Iraq

Mr. Ellwood: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what mechanisms are in place for processing visa applications from Iraqi nationals seeking to visit the UK. [265608]

Mr. Woolas *[holding answer 23 March 2009]:* Currently Iraqi nationals can lodge all categories of visa application at several designated posts. These are currently Amman (Jordan), Beirut (Lebanon), and Damascus (Syria). A limited visa application service is available in Baghdad for certain designated categories of applicant. This limited service was extended to Erbil on a trial basis commencing 9 March.

The UK Border Agency, working closely with the FCO, continues to keep provision of visa services to Iraqi nationals under review taking into account ongoing security, logistical and financial considerations.

Entry Clearances: Overseas Students

Stephen Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether international graduates will continue to be able to apply to stay in the UK for up to two years after graduation under post-study work arrangements for the academic year 2009-10. [265955]

Mr. Woolas *[holding answer 23 March 2009]:* The Immigration Rules currently provide for those qualifying in the Tier 1 (Post Study) category to be granted leave to enter or remain for up to a maximum period of two years. This will continue to be the case when the Statement of Changes to the Immigration Rules laid before Parliament on 9 March come into force on 31 March.

House of Commons: Right of Search

Andrew Mackinlay: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when an application was made to a magistrate for a search warrant to search the office of the hon. Member for Ashford within the parliamentary precincts; what response was made to that application; and if she will make a statement. [240502]

Mr. Coaker: This is a matter for the Metropolitan police and the House authorities have placed in the Library of the House a letter from the Assistant Commissioner of the Metropolitan police, giving his account of the circumstances in which the police entered the House of Commons.

Sir Nicholas Winterton: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, with reference to the letter to her of 3 December 2008 from Assistant Commissioner Robert Quick, from whom the police obtained the information which led them to understand that the Serjeant at Arms had obtained legal advice in the period between their meetings of 26 and 27 November with her. [241389]

Mr. Coaker: This is a matter for the Metropolitan police.

Mr. Cash: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if she will ask the Acting Commissioner of the Metropolitan police service to explain the reasons which underlay the decision to search the parliamentary office of the hon. Member for Ashford on a day on which the House was prorogued. [241563]

Mr. Coaker *[holding answer 9 December 2008]:* This is a matter for the Metropolitan police.

Mr. Jenkin: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what meetings she has attended with Mr. Speaker on the arrest of the hon. Member for Ashford (Damian Green) and the search of his office; what was discussed; if she will place in the Library a copy of records held by her Department of such meetings; and whether she has received a request under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 from the hon. Member for North Essex for this information. [250886]

Mr. Woolas *[holding answer 26 January 2009]:* No such meetings occurred. The hon. Member's request under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 has been received and he will receive a reply shortly.

Human Trafficking

Mr. Grieve: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether her Department plans to publish a report on the operation and outcomes of Operation Pentameter 2. [250112]

Mr. Alan Campbell: A report on Operation Pentameter 2 is being prepared by Gloucestershire constabulary, which led the operation. A summary version of this report, including results, will be made available in the spring.

Members: Correspondence

Mr. Winnick: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when she plans to reply to the letter from the hon. Member for Walsall North of 10 February regarding a constituent, ref: M2717/9. [265187]

Mr. Woolas *[holding answer 20 March 2009]:* Lin Homer, Chief Executive of the UK Border Agency, replied on 20 March 2009.

Offences against Children: Internet

James Brokenshire: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent discussions she has had with social networking sites and internet service providers on the removal of profiles of paedophiles and sex offenders. [264031]

Mr. Alan Campbell: The Government take the issue of protecting children online very seriously, and we are considering ways in which we can, with industry, protect children from those who would seek to harm them. Discussions are ongoing with a number of stakeholders regarding the removal of sex offenders from social networking sites.

Police: Right of Search

Andrew Mackinlay: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) what requirements there are on police officers to produce search warrants when searching premises; in what circumstances they are not required to produce such warrants; and if she will make a statement; [240505]

(2) who may give consent to the search of premises consequent to the arrest of the person who is in occupation or control of those premises under the provisions of the Code of Practice B issued under the Police and Criminal Evidence Act 1984; and if she will make a statement. [241439]

Mr. Coaker *[holding answer 9 December 2008]:* Under PACE the police have the power to enter and search premises for evidence of an offence either on a warrant from a magistrate (for evidence of an indictable offence) or without a warrant. Powers of entry and search without warrant include the power to enter and search any premises:

> for the purpose of making an arrest for an indictable offence, a limited number of summary offences or other specified circumstances (section 17 of PACE).
>
> owned or occupied by a person who has been arrested for an indictable offence (section 18 of PACE).
>
> where a person arrested for an indictable offence was at the time of, or immediately before, their arrest (section 32 of PACE).

Paragraph 5.1 of PACE Code of Practice B requires that if it is proposed to search premises with the consent of a person entitled to grant entry, the officer must make any necessary enquiries to be satisfied the person is in a position to give such consent. This may include the owner, landlord or occupier of the premises. PACE Code B also provides that in a lodging house or similar accommodation, every reasonable effort should be made to obtain the consent of the tenant, lodger or occupier.

Vetting

Tom Brake: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) what the average estimated cost for the Criminal Records Bureau to complete a single check was in the latest period for which information is available; [264954]

(2) what target her Department has set for the length of time taken to process a Criminal Records Bureau disclosure application; and how long on average it took to process such an application in the most recent period for which figures are available; [265390]

(3) how many applications for Criminal Records Bureau checks were received in each year since 2002; and how many such checks were completed in each such year. [265448]

Mr. Malik: The total number of disclosures received and issued by the Criminal Records Bureau (CRB) is contained in the following table.

	Disclosures received	*Disclosures issued*
2002-03	1,651,134	1,437,094
2003-04	2,358,627	2,284,688
2004-05	2,532,451	2,430,937
2005-06	2,860,296	2,770,265
2006-07	3,252,640	3,277,957
2007-08	3,408,595	3,323,251
2008 (to January 2009)	3,262,826	3,263,000

In running the disclosure service, the CRB operates to a set of published service standards (PSS) which include issuing 90 per cent. of enhanced disclosures in four weeks and 90 per cent. of standard disclosures in 10 days.

Data concerning the average time taken to complete a disclosure are not collated by the CRB. However, the Bureau has completed 88.2 per cent. of enhanced disclosures within 28 days in 2008-09 and at a unit cost of £26.18.

JUSTICE

Courts: Hertfordshire

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the cost of providing the Crown court service in Hertfordshire was in each year since 1997. [265815]

Bridget Prentice: Prior to the formation of Her Majesty's Courts Service on 1 April 2005 the Crown court was administered by the Court Service and the detailed financial information relating to prior years is not held by HMCS. Obtaining the specific information relating to Hertfordshire would incur disproportionate cost as this would require a manual investigation of court records.

HMCS accounting records reflect HMCS management structure. This does not necessarily reflect HMCS geographical or court structure. As a consequence it is not possible to identify accurately all costs attributable to specific courts.

The costs of providing Crown court services in Hertfordshire for each of the last three years was:

Financial year	*£ million*
2005-06	2.3
2006-07	2.5
2007-08	2.7

Costs included are the direct costs and cover salaries, staff expenses, accommodation expenses and depreciation.

The costs of circuit and High Court judges are not held at court level and are not included. The costs also exclude area and central overhead costs as these are not allocated to court level.

Departmental Official Hospitality

Mr. Rob Wilson: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how much his Department spent on *(a)* alcohol and *(b)* food in each of the last five years. [261160]

Maria Eagle: All expenditure on food and drink is in line with the internal Finance Policy Manual and the Gifts and Hospitality Policy, which set out mandatory guidance for all staff regarding the use of public funds. Both are consistent with the Treasury guidance on Managing Public Money, and the Treasury handbook on Propriety and Regularity.

The Ministry's policy on the provision of alcohol prohibits the supply of any alcohol paid from departmental funds for in-house hospitality. For external hospitality the guidance states:

> "When providing hospitality to external parties, then discretion can be exercised, e.g. a modest amount of alcohol with a meal".

There is no departmental requirement to separately monitor expenditure on alcohol and food. No separate account codes for these expenditure types are maintained, and to extract this information could be completed only at disproportionate cost.

Since April 2007 a record has been kept of the cost of receptions and formal dinners hosted by the Lord Chancellor and Secretary of State for Justice. This record indicates that in the financial year 2007-08 spending in these matters was £42,452. The total spending to January 2009 in 2008-09 financial year is £68,331. The majority of this spending is for the Lord Chancellor's Breakfast, hosted for the judiciary and foreign dignitaries on the occasion of the opening of the legal year.

Lancaster Farms Young Offender Institution

Mr. Wallace: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what additional funding he has allocated for improvements to Young Offender Institute Lancaster Farms following the transfer of its juvenile population. [266041]

Mr. Hanson: £270,000 was allocated to fund additional fencing. The additional fencing has provided exercise yards and has enabled fewer restrictions upon the allocation of some young adults to purposeful activity working within farms and gardens.

Land Registry

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many internal grievances in the Land Registry led to an employment tribunal in each of the last two financial years; what the reasons for each such case were in each year; how many such cases were settled before a tribunal hearing in each such year; what the cost of out-of-court settlements was in each year; what the cost of fees for *(a)* solicitors and *(b)* barristers for cases taken to tribunal was in each year; and what the cost of awards made against the Land Registry at tribunal was in each year. [265533]

Mr. Wills: 11 grievances led to an employment tribunal in 2007-08. 14 grievances led to an employment tribunal in 2008-09. The reason for each case in each year is as detailed in the following tables:

2007-08

Claim	*Reason for claim*
Claim 1	Disability discrimination
Claim 2	Unfair dismissal and age discrimination
Claim 3	Unfair dismissal and age discrimination
Claim 4	Discrimination on basis of Trade Union membership
Claim 5	Discrimination on basis of Trade Union membership
Claim 6	Unfair dismissal and age discrimination
Claim 7	Discrimination on the grounds of sexual orientation
Claim 8	Unfair dismissal and age and sex discrimination
Claim 9	Unfair dismissal (fixed term employee)
Claim 10	Unfair dismissal and age and sex discrimination
Claim 11	Unfair dismissal and disability discrimination

2008-09

Claim	*Reason for claim*
Claim 1	Disability discrimination
Claim 2	Unfair dismissal (fixed term employee) and disability discrimination
Claim 3	Unfair dismissal (fixed term employee)
Claim 4	Unfair dismissal (fixed term employee)
Claim 5	Unfair dismissal (fixed term employee)
Claim 6	Unfair dismissal (fixed term employee)
Claim 7	Unfair dismissal (casual employee)
Claim 8	Unpaid leave entitlement on termination of employment
Claim 9	Unauthorised deduction from wages
Claim 10	Constructive dismissal and disability discrimination
Claim 11	Unfair dismissal and age and sex discrimination
Claim 12	Annual leave accrual during additional maternity leave
Claim 13	Disability discrimination
Claim 14	Unfair dismissal and age and sex discrimination

One case was settled before hearing at tribunal in 2007-08. No cases were settled before hearing at tribunal and four were withdrawn by the complainant in 2008-09.

The cost of out-of-court settlement in 2007-08 was £1,400. There were no out-of-court settlements in 2008-09.

The cost of solicitors' fees in 2007-08 was £17,673.78. The cost of barristers' fees in that year was £3,073.40.

The cost of solicitors' fees in 2008-09 was £76,902.98. The cost of barristers' fees in that year was £29,934.70.

There were no costs awarded against Land Registry in 2007-08. The costs awarded against Land Registry in 2008-09 were £1,250.

All 2008-09 figures are as of 24 March 2009.

Magistrates Courts: Hertfordshire

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how much the provision of the magistrates court service in *(a)* Hemel Hempstead and *(b)* Hertfordshire cost in each year since 1997. [265814]

Bridget Prentice: Prior to the formation of Her Majesty's Courts Service on 1 April 2005 magistrates courts were the responsibility of individual magistrates courts committees. Consequently, HMCS does not hold records relating to magistrates courts prior to 1 April 2005.

The directly attributable costs of providing magistrates court services at Hemel Hempstead for each of the last three years was:

Financial year	*£ million*
2005-06	0.23
2006-07	0.34
2007-08	0.27

Costs included are the direct costs for the magistrates courts at Hemel Hempstead including: staff expenses, accommodation expenses, lay magistrates allowances and depreciation.

Area, regional and central overhead costs are not allocated to court level. Consequently, the costs above do not include cost allocations relating to area or central management.

The costs of district judges are not recorded at court level and have not been included.

The directly attributable costs of providing magistrates court services in Hertfordshire for each of the last three years was:

Financial Year	*£ million*
2005-06	4.4
2006-07	4.9
2007-08	4.5

Costs included are the direct costs for the magistrates courts in Hertfordshire including: staff expenses, accommodation expenses, lay magistrates allowances and depreciation.

Area, regional and central overhead costs are not allocated to court level. Consequently, the costs above do not include cost allocations relating to area or central management.

The costs of district judges are not recorded at court level and have not been included.

Pleural Plaques: Compensation

Frank Cook: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice when the Government plan to announce a decision on compensation for those adversely affected by pleural plaques. [266186]

Bridget Prentice: The consultation on pleural plaques closed on 1 October 2008 and has generated a large number of responses. We are carefully analysing all the submissions received, many of which are detailed and complex, and will seek to publish a response paper outlining the way forward as soon as possible.

Victim Support Schemes: Finance

Mr. Burrowes: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how much was in the Victims Fund in each of the last five years; and what its sources of income are. [265686]

Maria Eagle: The following table details the level of funding invested in the Victims Fund over the last five years.

The sources of income include asset recovery funds, central Government funds and the Victims Surcharge Fund.

	£ million (Resources)
2004-05	1
2005-06	3
2006-07	1.25
2007-08	1.75
2008-09	1.75

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Departmental Pay

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how much his Department has allocated for staff bonuses in 2008-09. [252257]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The Department for International Development's (DFID) reward arrangements do not allow for the payment of any performance-related awards in the 2008-09 financial year to staff below the senior civil service (SCS).

DFID's total SCS consolidated pay bill was £7.45 million at 31 March 2008. In line with the SSRB's recommendations, an additional 8.6 per cent. (£0.64 million) was allocated for non-consolidated performance awards for payment in the current financial year. The median award made was £6,350.

Awards are intended to reward delivery of personal business objectives during the reporting year or other short-term personal contributions to wider organisational objectives. In considering SCS members for an award, line managers are asked to take into account:

performance against agreed priority business objectives or targets;

total delivery record over the year;

relative stretch (ie the challenge of the job compared to that of others); and

response to unforeseen events that affected the performance agreement.

Awards are funded within existing pay bill controls, have to be re-earned each year against the pre-determined criteria above and, as such, do not add to future pay bill costs.

The annual size of the non-consolidated performance pay pot is based on recommendations by the independent Senior Salaries Review Body (SSRB).

Mr. Scott: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what guidance his Department has issued on the payment of per diem expenses to people who are not employees of the Department for attendance at *(a)* meetings, *(b)* workshops, *(c)* conferences and *(d)* other events; what guidance has been issued on the rates payable to such people in developing countries; and if he will make a statement. [264101]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: Where the Department for International Development (DFID) considers the payment of per diem expenses to be appropriate, our general aim is to provide event participants with a level of expenses consistent with DFID employees in comparable situations. As each event will have different requirements in relation to the location, venue, facilities and duration, DFID determines the appropriate per diem rate and guidance on a case-by-case basis.

Departmental Recruitment

Mr. Andrew Mitchell: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development with reference to the answer of 29 October 2008, *Official Report*, column 1162W, on departmental recruitment, how many additional *(a)* generalist and *(b)* technical civil servants were recruited between mid-October 2008 and the end of 2008; and how many serving generalist civil servants recruited to the fast stream between 2003 and 2008 were recruited (i) through the in-service stream and (ii) from other Government Departments. [267113]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The Department for International Development (DFID) recruited 69 civil servants between mid-October 2008 and the end of 2008. 35 of these were specialist or technical staff and 34 were generalist staff.

Between 2003 and 2008, DFID recruited eight people on to the fast stream through the in-service nomination scheme and 12 on to the fast stream from positions in other Government Departments.

Palestinians: Overseas Aid

Mr. Sarwar: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what support his Department is providing for non-governmental organisations and charities working to alleviate the humanitarian situation in Gaza. [264906]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: The Department for International Development (DFID) has pledged £46.8 million to help meet immediate needs and support recovery efforts in Gaza.

To date, £16.3 million of this has been committed as follows:

Organisation	*Detail*	*Commitment (£)*
UN Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) Gaza Flash Appeal	Food and cash assistance to those in need and shelter assistance for the displaced. Fuel to maintain essential public services.	4,000,000
UN's Humanitarian Emergency Response Fund	This will enable the UN's local Humanitarian Co-ordinator to quickly allocate funds to emerging priorities, making them available to NGOs and other organisations with staff on the ground, to meet immediate humanitarian needs.	1,000,000
International Committee for the Red Cross	Relief Assistance (food and non-food items); health and protection activities.	4,000,000
Mines Advisory Group	Assess, survey and clear the danger of unexploded ordnance in Gaza.	197,973
United Nations	Contribution and airlift of three armoured cars to facilitate safe assessments and relief delivery by UN agencies as quickly as possible.	500,000
Oxfam	Immediate water and sanitation needs of vulnerable communities in Gaza.	600,000
Mercy Corps	Emergency shelter, non-food items and psycho-social support to conflict-affected children, youth and families in Gaza.	913,279
Handicap International	Emergency medical response for the extremely vulnerable including people with injuries, people with disabilities and the elderly.	421,943
Action Against Hunger	Improve access to water through emergency rehabilitation of water infrastructure and raise awareness of good hygiene practice.	400,000
Welfare Association	Expand comprehensive community-based health rehabilitation services for disabled people and their families in areas of high need.	300,000
OCHA	Support for an information officer to work in OCHA for three months.	70,000
Islamic Relief	Non-food items, psycho-social support, house repair, emergency school rehabilitation.	660,618
UNICEF	For information management and co-ordination of emergency water and sanitation sector response.	340,000
World Food Programme	Provision of food aid and co-ordination of relief items brought into Gaza by the UN and NGOs.	2,500,000
UN Mines Action Services	For the clearance and disposal of unexploded ordnance to enable reconstruction and redevelopment to take place.	443,000
Total committed to date		16,346,813

This table is available on the DFID website and is updated when further allocations are made.

Mrs. Curtis-Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development pursuant to the answer of 4 March 2009, *Official Report*, column 1656W, on Palestinians: overseas aid, what measures are in place to ensure that his Department's humanitarian aid to Palestinians in Gaza will not be channelled to Hamas. [265708]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: I refer my hon. Friend to the answers given to my hon. Friend the Member for Denton and Reddish (Andrew Gwynne) and my hon. Friend the Member for Blackpool, North and Fleetwood (Mrs. Humble) on 25 March 2009, *Official Report*, column 291.

Sudan: Politics and Government

Mr. Ancram: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what recent steps he has taken to ensure that humanitarian and reconstruction aid provided by his Department is delivered in Gaza without delay owing to the application of political conditions to the provision of such assistance. [265446]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: I refer the right hon. Member to the answers given to my hon. Friend the Member for Denton and Reddish (Andrew Gwynne) and my hon. Friend the Member for Blackpool, North and Fleetwood (Mrs. Humble) on 25 March 2009, *Official Report*, column 291.

Uganda

Mr. Scott: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how much his Department paid in per diem expenses to persons in Uganda who were not employees of the Department to attend *(a)* meetings, *(b)* workshops, *(c)* conferences and *(d)* other events in 2007-08. [264100]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: In Uganda, the Department for International Development (DFID) does not directly pay per diem expenses to non-DFID employees. Included in our programmes and budgets is provision for training events, workshops and other events which are managed by our implementing partners.

CHILDREN, SCHOOLS AND FAMILIES

Cambridge University: Admissions

Jeff Ennis: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what estimate he has made of the number of secondary schools in England which have not had a student accepted for a place at *(a)* Cambridge university and *(b)* Oxford university in the last 30 years. [264541]

Mr. Lammy: I have been asked to reply.

Detailed UCAS data on applications via secondary schools are only available from 2001. The figures cover schools classed by UCAS as comprehensive, grammar, other maintained and other secondary schools in England. Only centres who have had pupils apply to university via the UCAS system have been included. Figures include centres who have had applicants to Oxford and Cambridge, and those who have had no applications to these two universities.

There were 1,919 centres whose applicants applied through the UCAS system, which did not have any applicants accepted on to courses at Cambridge in any year between 2001 and 2008 inclusive. In the same time period, 1,990 centres whose applicants applied through the UCAS system did not have any applicants accepted on to courses at Oxford in any of the years.

Source:

UCAS

Children: Protection

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) what the period is of Sir Roger Singleton's appointment as chief adviser on the safety of children; what remit he has been given; and what remuneration he will receive in this capacity; [264414]

(2) whether the chief adviser on the safety of children will be permitted to read serious case review reports; [264428]

(3) who will appoint the next chief adviser on the safety of children. [264399]

Beverley Hughes *[holding answer 19 March 2009]*: Sir Roger Singleton's remit as chief adviser on the safety of children was set out in a letter from the Secretary of State to Sir Roger on 12 March. This letter was placed in the House Libraries on the same day. The details of his activities, including in relation to serious case reviews, will be developed over the next few months. The period of Sir Roger's appointment to this role is three years. Decisions about any future appointments of a chief adviser on the safety of children will be made in due course.

Sir Roger will be carrying out this role on a part-time basis and will be remunerated at a rate consistent with that normally provided for public advisory roles.

Schools: Standards

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families if he will bring forward legislative proposals to require minimum standards in respect of provision for *(a)* the supply of drinking water and *(b)* toilets in schools. [266073]

Jim Knight: The Education (School Premises) Regulations 1999 already specify minimum standards in respect of the quality of drinking water and the numbers of toilets. There are no plans to bring forward any further legislation on these matters.

Social Workers

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) how many people have graduated from the new social worker degree since its creation; [265238]

(2) how many people have started the new social worker degree since its creation; [265239]

(3) how many graduates of the new social worker degree remain in post as social workers; [265230]

(4) how many graduates of the new social worker degree have become social workers since its creation. [265231]

Beverley Hughes: The General Social Care Council registers both social work students and practising social workers.

As of 16 March 2009, the General Social Care Council has recorded 28,120 people as having enrolled on the social work degree since its creation in 2003 and 10,353 people as having passed the social work degree.

The number of social work degree graduates now practising as social workers is not recorded by the General Social Care Council; however, as of 16 March 2009, 9,007 qualified social workers who have graduated from the social work degree are registered with them.

Special Educational Needs

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many and what percentage of mainstream schools in each local authority area had more than *(a)* 5 per cent. and *(b)* 10 per cent. of pupils with statements of special educational need in 2008. [260287]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The information, for those local authorities with schools with more than 5 per cent. and more than 10 per cent. of pupils with statements, is shown in the following table.

Nursery, primary and secondary schools[1, 2]: number and percentage of schools with pupils with special educational needs with statements[3], position in January 2008, by local authority area

		LA maintained nursery and primary schools and state-funded secondary schools with more than 5 per cent. of pupils with statements		*LA maintained nursery and primary schools and state-funded secondary schools with more than 10 per cent. of pupils with statements*	
Local authority number	*Local authority name*	*Number of schools*	*Percentage of schools*	*Number of schools*	*Percentage of schools*
202	Camden	3	5.9	0	0.0
203	Greenwich	7	8.4	2	2.4
204	Hackney	5	7.6	0	0.0
205	Hammersmith and Fulham	3	6.3	1	2.1
206	Islington	2	3.5	2	3.5
207	Kensington and Chelsea	3	8.8	0	0.0
208	Lambeth	4	5.2	0	0.0
209	Lewisham	1	1.2	0	0.0
210	Southwark	5	5.5	1	1.1
211	Tower Hamlets	6	6.7	1	1.1
212	Wandsworth	3	4.3	2	2.9
213	Westminster	2	3.7	1	1.9
301	Barking and Dagenham	1	1.7	0	0.0
302	Barnet	5	4.5	0	0.0
303	Bexley	4	5.3	0	0.0
305	Bromley	14	15.1	2	2.2
306	Croydon	4	3.6	0	0.0
307	Ealing	3	3.7	0	0.0
308	Enfield	1	1.2	0	0.0
310	Harrow	1	1.6	0	0.0
311	Havering	2	2.4	1	1.2
312	Hillingdon	1	1.2	0	0.0
313	Hounslow	2	2.7	1	1.4
314	Kingston upon Thames	1	2.2	0	0.0
315	Merton	2	3.0	0	0.0
316	Newham	1	1.1	0	0.0
317	Redbridge	1	1.4	0	0.0
318	Richmond upon Thames	3	6.0	0	0.0
319	Sutton	4	7.0	2	3.5
330	Birmingham	19	4.8	3	0.8
331	Coventry	1	1.0	0	0.0
332	Dudley	2	2.0	0	0.0
333	Sandwell	1	0.9	0	0.0
334	Solihull	1	1.3	0	0.0
335	Walsall	1	0.9	0	0.0
336	Wolverhampton	4	3.9	1	1.0
341	Liverpool	4	2.4	3	1.8
343	Sefton	5	4.9	1	1.0
344	Wirral	7	5.8	1	0.8
350	Bolton	1	0.8	0	0.0
351	Bury	6	7.7	0	0.0
352	Manchester	1	0.6	0	0.0

Nursery, primary and secondary schools[1, 2]: number and percentage of schools with pupils with special educational needs with statements[3], position in January 2008, by local authority area

		LA maintained nursery and primary schools and state-funded secondary schools with more than 5 per cent. of pupils with statements		*LA maintained nursery and primary schools and state-funded secondary schools with more than 10 per cent. of pupils with statements*	
Local authority number	*Local authority name*	*Number of schools*	*Percentage of schools*	*Number of schools*	*Percentage of schools*
353	Oldham	1	0.9	0	0.0
354	Rochdale	3	3.4	0	0.0
355	Salford	2	2.1	1	1.0
356	Stockport	7	6.1	1	0.9
357	Tameside	1	1.1	0	0.0
358	Trafford	4	4.5	2	2.2
359	Wigan	1	0.8	0	0.0
370	Barnsley	1	1.1	0	0.0
371	Doncaster	1	0.8	0	0.0
372	Rotherham	2	1.7	1	0.8
373	Sheffield	6	3.6	1	0.6
380	Bradford	2	1.0	0	0.0
382	Kirklees	10	5.4	2	1.[illegible]
383	Leeds	3	1.2	0	0.0
384	Wakefield	5	3.5	0	0.0
390	Gateshead	2	2.5	0	0.0
392	North Tyneside	4	5.6	0	0.0
393	South Tyneside	3	4.7	2	3.1
394	Sunderland	3	2.8	0	0.0
800	Bath and North East Somerset	6	8.0	0	0.0
801	Bristol, City of	5	3.5	3	2.1
802	North Somerset	2	2.7	0	0.0
803	South Gloucestershire	5	4.5	0	0.0
806	Middlesbrough	6	11.8	2	3.9
807	Redcar and Cleveland	3	5.4	0	0.0
808	Stockton-on-Tees	2	2.7	0	0.0
810	Kingston Upon Hull, City of	5	5.7	1	1.1
811	East Riding of Yorkshire	1	0.7	0	0.0
812	North East Lincolnshire	5	7.2	0	0.0
813	North Lincolnshire	6	7.6	0	0.0
815	North Yorkshire	7	1.9	0	0.0
820	Bedfordshire	1	0.5	0	0.0
821	Luton	2	2.8	0	0.0
825	Buckinghamshire	10	4.6	2	0.9
826	Milton Keynes	5	4.8	0	0.0
830	Derbyshire	14	3.4	0	0.0
831	Derby	4	4.0	2	2.0
835	Dorset	4	2.4	0	0.0
840	Durham	6	2.1	1	0.4
841	Darlington	1	2.6	0	0.0
845	East Sussex	4	2.2	0	0.0
846	Brighton and Hove	3	4.5	0	0.0
850	Hampshire	14	2.8	1	0.2
851	Portsmouth	1	1.6	1	1.6
855	Leicestershire	14	5.0	1	0.4
856	Leicester	2	2.0	1	1.0
857	Rutland	1	5.0	0	0.0
860	Staffordshire	3	0.8	0	0.0
861	Stoke-on-Trent	2	2.1	0	0.0
865	Wiltshire	13	5.6	2	0.9
866	Swindon	1	1.4	0	0.0
867	Bracknell Forest	1	2.8	0	0.0
868	Windsor and Maidenhead	3	4.8	0	0.0
869	West Berkshire	4	5.1	0	0.0
870	Reading	3	6.1	0	0.0
871	Slough	2	4.5	0	0.0
872	Wokingham	6	9.8	2	3.3
873	Cambridgeshire	9	3.8	0	0.0
874	Peterborough	3	4.3	1	1.4
875	Cheshire	30	9.7	4	1.3

Nursery, primary and secondary schools[1] [2]: number and percentage of schools with pupils with special educational needs with statements[3], position in January 2008, by local authority area

		LA maintained nursery and primary schools and state-funded secondary schools with more than 5 per cent. of pupils with statements		LA maintained nursery and primary schools and state-funded secondary schools with more than 10 per cent. of pupils with statements	
Local authority number	Local authority name	Number of schools	Percentage of schools	Number of schools	Percentage of schools
876	Halton	5	7.8	1	1.6
877	Warrington	7	8.4	2	2.4
878	Devon	28	7.9	2	0.6
879	Plymouth	4	4.3	0	0.0
880	Torbay	5	12.5	1	2.5
881	Essex	17	3.1	7	1.3
883	Thurrock	2	3.8	0	0.0
884	Herefordshire	2	2.1	1	1.1
885	Worcestershire	5	2.2	2	0.9
886	Kent	19	3.4	4	0.7
887	Medway	6	5.8	4	3.8
888	Lancashire	37	6.2	5	0.8
889	Blackburn with Darwen	2	2.7	0	0.0
892	Nottingham	1	0.9	0	0.0
893	Shropshire	7	4.3	2	1.2
894	Telford and Wrekin	2	2.8	0	0.0
908	Cornwall	16	5.9	1	0.4
909	Cumbria	23	7.0	3	0.9
916	Gloucestershire	10	3.4	1	0.3
919	Hertfordshire	6	1.2	2	0.4
925	Lincolnshire	37	10.5	2	0.6
926	Norfolk	38	9.0	3	0.7
928	Northamptonshire	13	4.1	1	0.3
929	Northumberland	14	7.1	2	1.0
931	Oxfordshire	2	0.7	0	0.0
933	Somerset	2	0.8	0	0.0
935	Suffolk	20	6.0	2	0.6
936	Surrey	29	7.9	8	2.2
937	Warwickshire	5	2.1	0	0.0
938	West Sussex	7	2.5	1	0.4
	England	798	3.8	116	0.6

[1] Includes middle schools as deemed.

[2] Includes City Technology Colleges and Academies.

[3] Excludes dually registered pupils.

Young People: Carers

Mr. Evennett: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many children under the age of 16 years have been identified as young carers in *(a)* the London borough of Bexley, *(b)* London and *(c)* England in the latest period for which figures are available. [264834]

Beverley Hughes: The 2001 census, which is the only source of nationally comparable data on the number of carers of all ages, indicated that the number of young carers aged under 16 was 400 in the London borough of Bexley, 14,000 in London and 90,000 in England as a whole.

HEALTH

Abortion

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent assessment he has made of whether the partial-birth abortion procedure is practised in the UK; and if he will make a statement. [266965]

Dawn Primarolo: We are not aware of the procedure referred to as 'partial-birth abortion' being used in Great Britain.

The Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists (RCOG) issued a request in 1996 to ask all its members and fellows to ensure that they are recording details of any abortion using a procedure involving intrauterine decompression of the aftercoming head of the foetus on the form on which each abortion must be notified to the chief medical officer. Each form is checked and monitored.

It is the RCOG's belief that this form of abortion is never used as a primary or proactive technique and is only ever likely to be performed in unforeseen circumstances in order to reduce maternal mortality or severe morbidity.

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) how many women in Scotland aged *(a)* 18, *(b)* 17, *(c)* 16, *(d)* 15, *(e)* 14, *(f)* 13 and *(g)* 12 years who had had an abortion in (i) 2006 and (ii) 2007 had had (A) one, (B) two, (C) three, (D) four and (E) five or more previous abortions; [266976]

(2) how many abortions were performed in Scotland under the Abortion Act 1967 as amended by section 37 of the Human Fertilisation and Embryology Act 1990 where the unborn child was suffering from cleft *(a)* palate and *(b)* lip, broken down by (i) grounds for abortion, (ii) length of gestation and (iii) health authority in each of the last 15 years; [266977]

(3) how many abortions were performed in Scotland in the latest year for which figures are available, broken down by type of procedure; [266978]

(4) how many abortions have been performed in Scotland under the provisions of the Abortion Act 1967 in the last 30 years; and how many and what percentage of these abortions were performed in emergency to save the life of the mother; [266979]

(5) how many women in Scotland were referred by national health service GPs to the British Pregnancy Advisory Service for an abortion in each of the last four years for which figures are available, broken down by *(a)* age of the woman, *(b)* gestation of the pregnancy and *(c)* region of residence; [266981]

(6) how many early medical abortions were performed in Scotland by the British Pregnancy Advisory Service at the request of the national health service in each of the last four years, broken down by *(a)* age of the woman, *(b)* gestation of the pregnancy and *(c)* region of residence; [266982]

(7) how many girls in Scotland, aged *(a)* 12, *(b)* 13, *(c)* 14 and *(d)* 15 years of age had (i) one, (ii) two, (iii) three and (iv) four or more abortions in each of the last three years for which figures are available. [266983]

Dawn Primarolo: Data on abortions performed in Scotland are a matter for the Scottish Government.

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Health when the next edition of the abortion statistics will be published; and what the reasons are for the time taken to publish it. [266985]

Dawn Primarolo: The Statistical Bulletin, "Abortion Statistics, England and Wales 2008" will be published in May 2009. Abortion statistics are published annually.

Abortion: Young People

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what percentage of recorded under 18-year-old conceptions were followed by *(a)* first abortions and *(b)* repeat abortions in (i) England in each year since 1997 and (ii) each primary care trust area in the last 12 months. [265544]

Dawn Primarolo: The information is not available in the format requested. Such information as is available has been placed in the Library.

Allergies

Norman Lamb: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many people *(a)* have been admitted to hospital with and *(b)* died from anaphylaxis in each of the last 10 years. [266146]

Ann Keen: The following table provides information from the NHS Information Centre on finished admission episodes with a diagnosis of anaphylactic shock from 1997-08 to 2007-08.

		Year (of end of first period of care in-patients hospital stay)										
Code	*Description*	*2007-08*	*2006-07*	*2005-06*	*2004-05*	*2003-04*	*2002-03*	*2001-02*	*2000-01*	*1999-2000*	*1998-99*	*1997-98*
T78.0	Anaphylactic shock due to adverse food reaction	1,104	1,055	979	829	714	686	605	648	654	540	551
T78.2	Anaphylactic shock, unspecified	1,777	1,716	1,555	1,516	1,211	967	916	953	913	785	706
T80.5	Anaphylactic shock due to serum	10	11	8	14	13	8	10	9	11	6	16
T88.6	Anaphylactic shock due to adverse effect of correct drug or medicament properly administered	494	491	536	462	397	308	321	357	380	323	285

The following table contains information from the Office for National Statistics on the number of deaths with a cause of anaphylactic shock, England and Wales, 1998 to 2007.

	Persons *Deaths*
1998	8
1999	12
2000	14
2001	7
2002	6
2003	19
2004	29
2005	15
2006	25
2007	24

Ambulance Services

Frank Cook: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what plans there are to *(a)* open, *(b)* close and *(c)* centralise ambulance control rooms in each region in each of the next three years. [266185]

Mr. Bradshaw: The organisation of control rooms is an issue for ambulance trusts to manage locally. The information is therefore not collected centrally.

You may wish to approach your local national health service organisations for further information.

Animal Experiments: EU Law

Mr. Todd: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether he has made an assessment of the potential effects of the proposed revisions to the EU Animals in Research Directive on medical research activity in England; what proposals he has made to the European Commission on the matter; and if he will make a statement. [265550]

Mr. Malik: I have been asked to reply.

The Government welcome the publication of the European Commission's proposal for a revised directive. We support the Commission's aim to harmonise the regulation of animal experimentation across the European Union. We also support measures to promote high welfare standards for laboratory animals and to promote the development and use of alternatives. At the same time we believe it is vital that regulation properly balances the protection of animals and the legitimate needs of science and industry while maintaining public confidence that animals are not allowed to suffer unnecessarily.

We are in the process of assessing the detailed technical provisions of the draft directive and will shortly launch a public consultation to assist in developing the Government's negotiating position. Our key priority in negotiating the revised directive will be to develop practical, proportionate and enforceable legislation that makes proper provision for the welfare of laboratory animals, facilitates their responsible use, and can adapt to further technical progress.

Arthritis

Sandra Gidley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what estimate he has made of the cost to *(a)* the NHS and *(b)* social services of providing services to those diagnosed with rheumatoid arthritis in the latest period for which figures are available; [266382]

(2) how many new cases of rheumatoid arthritis were diagnosed in England in the last year for which figures are available; [266383]

(3) what estimate he has made of the number of people with rheumatoid arthritis in each *(a)* strategic health authority and *(b)* primary care trust area in the most recent year for which figures are available. [266384]

Ann Keen: Information on the number of people with rheumatoid arthritis, or on the number of new cases diagnosed each year, is not collected centrally.

The National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE) has estimated that there are 400,000 people with rheumatoid arthritis in the United Kingdom and approximately 12,000 people develop the condition each year.

NICE has also estimated that the annual cost of fully implementing its clinical guideline on the management of rheumatoid arthritis in adults in England would be £54 million. No assessment has been made of the cost of providing social services to people diagnosed with rheumatoid arthritis.

Bone Marrow Disorders: Donors

Bob Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent discussions he has had with the African Caribbean Leukaemia Trust on the availability of bone marrow for transplants; what his policy is on encouraging people to offer to be bone marrow transplant donors; and if he will make a statement. [266056]

Dawn Primarolo: My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Health met with the African Caribbean Leukaemia Trust on 4 February 2009. The meeting focused on the work of the charity and their role in promoting bone marrow donation. Combined, the three UK Bone Marrow Registries (the British Bone Marrow Registry (BBMR), the Welsh Bone Marrow Registry and the Anthony Nolan Trust Bone Marrow Registry) are the third largest in the world. In 2008, the Department agreed a business case from the NHS Blood and Transplant Authority to support the BBMR through to 2012.

Bob Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will make it his policy that people who attend blood donor sessions should be invited to join the register of bone marrow transplant donors; if he will issue posters inviting people to be bone marrow transplant donors to GP surgeries, dispensing chemists and NHS trusts; and if he will make a statement. [266057]

Dawn Primarolo: The British Bone Marrow Register was established by the National Blood Service (NBS, which is now part of NHS Blood and Transplant) over 30 years ago. Bone marrow donors are primarily identified through the blood donation service. Leaflets promoting blood donation are routinely sent to a wide range of organisations including general practitioners surgeries, chemists and national health service trusts.

Brain: Cancer

Norman Lamb: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many children were diagnosed with brain tumours in the last 12 months; and what the survival rate for such children was in each of the last 10 years. [265760]

Kevin Brennan: I have been asked to reply.

The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated March 2009:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your recent Parliamentary Question asking how many children were diagnosed with brain tumours in the last 12 months; and what the survival rate for such children was in each of the last 10 years. [265760]

The latest available figures for newly diagnosed cases of cancer (incidence) are for the year 2006. There were 233 newly diagnosed cases of brain cancer in children (aged under 15) in 2006.

The Office for National Statistics does not routinely produce figures for cancer survival in children.

Breast Cancer: Shift Work

Mr. Sarwar: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether his Department has funded research on the potential for a link between prolonged night working and the incidence of female breast cancer. [264907]

Jonathan Shaw: I have been asked to reply.

The Health and Safety Executive has commissioned a major research project at the University of Oxford on "The relationship between shift work and disease" that addresses the reported association between working at night and the incidence of female breast cancer, and other cancers and diseases. The report will be published in 2011. (The Executive is also co-funding an April 2009 workshop on enhancing the quality of exposure information about shift work for such studies organised by the World Health Organisation's International Agency for Research on Cancer.)

Cord Blood

Mr. Burrowes: To ask the Secretary of State for Health when he plans to publish the conclusions of his Department's national cord blood review. [266259]

Dawn Primarolo: The Department, as part of its review of the collection and use of umbilical cord blood, is working with partners in other Government bodies and the third sector to ensure that the United Kingdom strengthens further the provision of stem cells for patients in need of a transplant. We have asked for proposals to be drafted by the end of March 2009 and will publish any conclusions in due course.

Departmental Buildings

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much was spent by his *(a)* Department and *(b)* its agencies on furniture in each of the last five years. [266203]

Mr. Bradshaw: The cost of furniture purchased by the Department and its agencies (Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency and NHS Purchasing and Supply Agency) in each of the last five years is:

		£
	Department	*Agencies*
2004-05	74,795	428,723
2005-06	1,178,689	194,396
2006-07	1,071,247	74,112
2007-08	696,657	90,237
2008-09	450,698	50,255

Departmental Internet

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health on how many occasions his Department's website has been temporarily unavailable due to a technical problem in each year for which figures are available. [266831]

Mr. Bradshaw: Between February 2004 and March 2007, the Department's website was hosted as part of a shared service run by the Office of the e-Envoy. During this period there were no occasions when the website was temporarily unavailable due to a technical problem.

In March 2007, the Department's website transferred to a new managed service, shared with Directgov. Since then, the Department's website has been temporarily unavailable due to a technical problem as follows: five occasions between March 2007 and December 2007, 11 occasions between January 2008 and December 2008 and four occasions from January 2009 to date.

Departmental Manpower

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the *(a)* specialist areas of work, *(b)* job description, *(c)* salary band and *(d)* grade is of each official in his Department who works in social care. [267374]

Phil Hope: The strategic objectives of the Department are better health and well-being for all, better care for all and better value for all. Every official within the Department contributes, through their personal objectives, to achieving those goals for both health and social care.

The social care, local government and care partnerships directorate has the specific responsibility for the development of policy on adult social care, and on mental health and health services for offenders. In meeting this responsibility, the directorate is supported by the rest of the Department. The directorate has an establishment of 149.01 whole-time equivalent officials. Of these 106.88 whole-time equivalents currently work exclusively on adult social care policy. A director-general in pay band three of the senior civil service leads the directorate. The specialist areas of work, civil service pay bands and business unit objectives of the officials who work exclusively on adult social care are in the following table.

Number of whole-time equivalent staff working exclusively on adult social care policy at the Department of Health

		Whole-time equivalents establishment by civil service grade (at 25 March 2009)				
Business unit	*Description of objectives*	*Senior civil service pay band 2*	*Senior civil service pay band 1*	*Grade 6*	*Grade 7*	*Senior Executive Officer*
Social care policy and innovation	To develop policies and support innovative practices that promote equality, human rights and social inclusion by embedding choice, control and personal safety in social care services	1	3.7	4.83	17.9	11.15

Number of whole-time equivalent staff working exclusively on adult social care policy at the Department of Health

		Whole-time equivalents establishment by civil service grade (at 25 March 2009)				
Business unit	*Description of objectives*	*Senior civil service pay band 2*	*Senior civil service pay band 1*	*Grade 6*	*Grade 7*	*Senior Executive Officer*
Social care strategy unit	To provide overall strategic direction on priorities for social care and developing the green paper on reform to care and support	—	1	5.4	5.4	1
Social care strategic finance	To lead on the key issues related to the funding of social care in England	1	—	—	1	—
Social care leadership and performance	To improve the quality, performance and status of social care through strengthening the performance framework, increasing the capacity and capability of the work force, enhancing leadership and providing a local government perspective in the Department	1	9.88	2	6	—
	Total by grade	3	14.58	12.23	30.3	12.15

		Whole-time equivalents establishment by civil service grade (at 25 March 2009)				
Business unit	*Description of objectives*	*Higher Executive Officer*	*Executive Officer*	*Administrative Officer*	*Fast Stream*	*Total*
Social care policy and innovation	To develop policies and support innovative practices that promote equality, human rights and social inclusion by embedding choice, control and personal safety in social care services.	6	12.07	2	3	61.65
Social care strategy unit	To provide overall strategic direction on priorities for social care and developing the green paper on reform to care and support.	1	—	—	4	17.8
Social care strategic finance	To lead on the key issues related to the funding of social care in England.	—	1.55	—	—	3.55
Social care leadership and performance	To improve the quality, performance and status of social care through strengthening the performance framework, increasing the capacity and capability of the work force, enhancing leadership and providing a local government perspective in the Department	2	2	—	1	23.88
	Total by grade	9	15.62	2	8	106.88

Source: Social Care, Local Government and Care Partnerships Directorate local staff records.

Departmental Redundancy

Justine Greening: To ask the Secretary of State for Health with reference to the answer of 20 January 2009, *Official Report*, column 1370W, on redundancy, how many staff left his Department under staff exit schemes with a severance package worth *(a)* between £100,000 and £125,000, *(b)* between £125,001 and £150,000, *(c)* between £150,001 and £200,000, *(d)* between £200,001 and £250,000, *(e)* between £250,001 and £500,000, *(f)* between £500,001 and £1,000,000 and *(g)* over £1,000,000 in each year since 2005-06. [264282]

Mr. Bradshaw: Information on severance packages given to staff leaving the Department under exit schemes in each year since 2005-06 is presented in the following table:

	2005-06	*2006-07*	*2007-08*
£100,000-£125,000	3	1	7
£125,000-£150,000	3	3	5
£150,000-£200,000	6	1	7
£200,000-£250,000	2	2	3
£250,000-£500,000	2	4	5
£500,000-£1,000,000	5	3	1
Total	21	14	28

Departmental Training

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many training courses were taken by *(a)* civil servants and *(b)* Ministers in his Department in each of the last three years; and what the total cost of training was in each year. [265307]

Mr. Bradshaw: The Department recognises the value and importance of providing fair and equitable development opportunities to all our staff throughout their career.

In 2007-08 the Department ran 144 corporate events which 1,670 participants attended. For 2006-07 and 2005-06 no information is held for the number of events or participants and to establish the numbers would incur disproportionate costs.

Departmental costs of corporate learning and development for the last three complete years are as follows:

	Costs (£)
2007-08	1,312,256
2006-07	1,294,299
2005-06	1,519,123

Information about courses run and paid for locally within departmental directorates is not held centrally, and would incur disproportionate costs to establish.

The details and cost of training for Ministers are not held centrally in the Department but the National School of Government (NSG) records show that the NSG delivered 20 training courses for members of the Department's ministerial team within the timescale in question at a cost of £2,800.

	Cost (£)	Number of Ministers attending
2008-09 (to date)	900	4
2007-08	1,750	8
2006-07	150	3
2005-06	0	5

Departmental Visits Abroad

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much expenditure was incurred in respect of overseas visits which *(a)* he, *(b)* other Ministers in his Department and *(c)* his Department's senior officials undertook in 2008. [262180]

Mr. Bradshaw: Since 1999, the Government have published a list of all overseas travel by Cabinet Ministers costing over £500. Information for the financial year 2007-08 was published on 22 July 2008, *Official Report*, column 102WS, and for the first time, included details of overseas visits undertaken by all Ministers. All travel by Ministers is undertaken in accordance with the Ministerial Code.

In respect of senior officials (taken to mean all members of the senior civil service), this information is not held centrally and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost. All travel by officials in the Department is undertaken in accordance with the Civil Service Management Code, which requires:

> 'staff use the most efficient and economic means of travel in the circumstances.'

Enfield Primary Care Trust: Health Visitors

Joan Ryan: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many health visitors were employed in Enfield Primary Care Trust in each of the last 11 years. [263914]

Ann Keen: The information on the number of health visitors in the Enfield primary care trust (PCT) for each of the last 11 years is provided in the following table. The number of health visitors has reduced from 2005 onwards. However there are more people working in children's services in the community. The way services are organised now means that health visitors are more likely to be working in teams in which support for families is available in more innovative ways, such as in children's centres.

NHS hospital and community health services: Health visitors in the Enfield PCT[1] as at 30 September each specified year

	Health visitors (headcount)
1997	62
1998	58
1999	59
2000	54
2001	55
2002	59
2003	65
2004	58
2005	56
2006	50
2007	50

[1] In 2002 Enfield Community Healthcare NHS Trust and Barnet and Chase Farm NHS Trust merged to form Enfield PCT. Figures prior to 2002 are an aggregate of these predecessor organisations.

Source:

The NHS Information Centre for health and social care.

Food: Hygiene

Mr. Roger Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what discussions he has had with *(a)* Ministerial colleagues, *(b)* non-departmental bodies, *(c)* local authorities and *(d)* representatives of the food industry on (i) mandatory food hygiene training, (ii) other initiatives to improve food hygiene standards and (iii) penalties for performance below specified food hygiene standards; and if he will make a statement. [266449]

Dawn Primarolo: My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State meets with his ministerial colleagues and other authorities on a regular basis to discuss a variety of issues.

The Food Standards Agency regularly meets with a range of Government and industry organisations to discuss food hygiene, training and standards.

Health Care Scientists: Manpower

Sandra Gidley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many health care scientists are employed in the NHS. [266381]

Ann Keen: The total number of qualified health care scientists employed by the national health service in England is 31,028 headcount and 28,543 full-time equivalent.

Health Services

Kate Hoey: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many meetings *(a)* he and *(b)* Ministers in his Department have had with patient and support groups on (i) cardiovascular disease, (ii) stroke and (iii) diabetes in the last 12 months; and what plans he has further to involve such groups in strategic policy development in relevant areas. [266326]

Ann Keen: Over the last 12 months, Ministers in the Department have had eight meetings with patient and support groups on cardiovascular disease (which includes stroke) and we have had two meetings with Diabetes UK on a range of issues around diabetes. The meetings include incidences when the Ministers have spoken at conferences.

Officials have regular meetings with patient and support groups on cardiovascular disease and diabetes. We fully intend that groups representing patients' interests should continue to be involved in the development and refinement of our policies and recognise their valuable input.

Mr. Roger Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many patients on average *(a)* an urban and *(b)* a rural (i) NHS dentist, (ii) NHS GP and (iii) NHS community nurse treated in each region in each of the last three years; and if he will make a statement. [266452]

Mr. Bradshaw: Information is not available in the format requested.

You may wish to approach local national health service organisations for more information.

Health Services: Elderly

Mr. Burstow: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what longitudinal studies his Department has commissioned on preventative measures in the care of older people; and if he will make a statement. [267228]

Phil Hope: The Department has collaborated with other Government Departments to fund the UK leg of the English Longitudinal study of Ageing with the US Institute of Aging providing matching funding to enable international comparison.

Health Services: Prisons

Mr. Garnier: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many healthcare beds in each prison in England were being used by prisoners with no clinical need for in-patient care on the latest date for which figures are available. [265889]

Phil Hope: This information is not collected or available centrally.

Hospitals: Disinfectants

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Health which products based on the generation of peracetic acid are used by NHS organisations; and if he will make a statement. [266796]

Ann Keen: The Department does not have the information requested as infection control products do not have to be purchased through NHS Supply Chain. National health service trusts are free to choose which products to purchase and will maintain their own records.

Human Papilloma Virus: Vaccination

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate he has made of the number of people eligible for the Cervarix vaccine over the lifetime of the contract. [266221]

Dawn Primarolo: The current contract for human papilloma virus vaccine is for a period of three years, and covers provision of the vaccine to girls in England, the devolved Administrations, United Kingdom territories and children of the armed forces covered by the Ministry of Defence health provision.

Approximately 2.4 million girls and young women in England will be eligible for the vaccine during this period.

Infant Foods

Lynne Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Health for what reasons the NHS Healthy Start scheme includes entitlement to free infant formula; and under what circumstances free infant formula is provided. [266402]

Dawn Primarolo: Healthy Start provides a nutritional safety net for pregnant women and children under four years old in low income and disadvantaged families. The scheme provides vouchers that can be put towards the cost of cow's milk, fresh fruit, fresh vegetables, and infant formula milk at participating retailers. We recommend exclusive breastfeeding for the first six months of life, and the scheme encourages this. However, if mothers choose not to breastfeed, formula is the only safe alternative for children under one year of age, as the use of cow's milk is not recommended. This is why infant formula is included in the scheme. However, follow-on formula is not included because scientific advice is that follow-on formula has no additional nutritional benefits for healthy babies over six months old.

Learning Disability: Parents

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health with reference to his Department's consultation on Valuing People Now, how many children live with a parent with one or more learning disability; how many and what proportion of parents with a learning disability *(a)* live with their children and *(b)* are in stable partnerships; what estimate he has made of the cost to the public purse of supporting a parent with one or more learning disability who live with their children; how many and what proportion of such parents receive support at (i) critical, (ii) substantial, (iii) moderate and (iv) mild levels; what estimate he has made of the number of such families in 2015; and what assessment he has made of the effect of a parent's learning disability on their children. [266217]

Phil Hope: The Department does not hold data on the number of children living with parents with learning disabilities, nor do we hold data on how many and what proportion of parents with a learning disability live with their children or are in stable partnerships, nor on the number and proportion of such families who receive support at different levels.

Research cited by the Joint Committee on Human Rights report "A Life Like Any Other" (2008) suggests that approximately 50 per cent. of parents with learning disabilities do not live with their children.

On 19 January 2009, the Secretary of State for Health published Valuing People Now, which set out the need to do more to make sure that adults' and children's services work more effectively together. This includes improving identification of families that need extra support and carrying out more effective assessments of their needs, to ensure that families with complex needs, including parents with learning disabilities, receive the right level of support at an earlier stage.

As part of Valuing People Now, we emphasised the need to improve information on the numbers and needs of people with learning disabilities; this includes parents with learning disabilities. This will enable better understanding of current and projected demands and to help inform local needs assessments.

It is for local authorities to work with local partners to assess the needs of parents with learning disabilities and their children. Local authorities should hold information about families who are known to services and their level of need.

Leukaemia: Hertfordshire

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many people diagnosed with leukaemia there were in *(a)* Hemel Hempstead and *(b)* Hertfordshire on the latest date for which figures are available. [265794]

Kevin Brennan: I have been asked to reply.

The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated March 2009:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your recent Parliamentary Question asking how many people diagnosed with leukaemia there are in (a) Hemel Hempstead and (b) Hertfordshire [265794].

We do not have an estimate of how many people there are at any one time. Numbers of newly diagnosed cases of leukaemia in 2006, the latest year for which figures are available, in (a) Hemel Hempstead and (b) Hertfordshire are in Table 1.

Table 1: Registrations of newly diagnosed cases of leukaemia[1], persons: Hemel Hempstead parliamentary constituency[2] and Hertfordshire county, 2006

	Number
Hemel Hempstead	3
Hertfordshire	79

[1] Leukaemia is coded to C91-C95 in the International Classification of Diseases, tenth revision (ICD-10).

[2] Based on boundaries as of 2007.

Source:

Office for National Statistics

Magnetic Resonance Imagers

Mr. Todd: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether he has made an assessment of the effects of the EU Physical Agents Directive on the use of magnetic resonance imaging technology in England; and if he will make a statement. [265548]

Jonathan Shaw: I have been asked to reply.

The adopted directive has been amended to provide for a later implementation date of April 2012 so that the EU can reassess its potential impact. HSE continues to engage with a wide range of stakeholders on this matter.

Mental Health Services: Women

Fiona Mactaggart: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what progress has been made on implementing the Women's Mental Health strategy since it was published. [266437]

Phil Hope: Significant progress has been made since the publication of the Women's Mental Health strategy "Into the Mainstream" in 2002 (a copy has been placed in the Library) and the implementation guidance "Mainstreaming Gender Equality and Women's Mental Health" in 2003 (a copy has already been placed in the Library).

The Gender Equality and Women's Mental Health programme was established by the National Institute of Mental Health in England (NIMHE) in 2004, to progress the implementation of "Into the Mainstream". It carried out a benchmarking of mental health trusts in 2007, to assess progress made since the publication of "Into the Mainstream".

Many mental health trusts now have a champion for women's mental health within the organisation; a number of trusts have developed a women's mental health strategy, with approximately half of trusts describing specific initiatives for women; and 92 per cent. of responding trusts reported developments in psychological therapies from which women have benefited.

We expect that a more detailed progress report will be published later this year. The Gender Equality and Women's Mental Health programme continues to be a key national programme and will move into the new national mental health delivery unit in April 2009.

NHS Bank

Norman Lamb: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) how many NHS trusts are borrowing money from the NHS Bank; how much each trust has paid in interest on such loans since they were taken out; and what rate of interest each is paying; [265648]

(2) how many NHS trusts are lenders to the NHS Bank; and how much each has received in interest on such loans since they were taken out; [265649]

(3) how much profit the NHS Bank made in each of the last three years; [265650]

(4) what the interest rate for *(a)* borrowers and *(b)* lenders to the NHS Bank was in each month since such interest charges were introduced. [265769]

Mr. Bradshaw: The NHS bank function no longer operates.

The Department makes loans for capital investment to national health service trusts and NHS foundation trusts and to NHS trusts for working capital. Details of interest rates and interest paid to date on current loans by trust are given in the table. Interest payments are made to the Department and are available for spending elsewhere in the NHS.

The Department does not take deposits from NHS trusts or foundation trusts.

The interest rate paid on loans is the National Loan Fund (NLF) Equal Instalment of Principle rate. The interest rate is updated daily and the actual rate charged relates to the term of loan. The rate is published daily by the Debt Management Office. Current and historic rates are available at:

www.dmo.gov.uk/index.aspx?page=PWLB/PWLB_Interest_ Rates

Interest rates and total interest paid on current loans to NHS trusts and NHS foundation trusts from the Department of Health

	National loan fund rate (fixed for term) (percentage)	*Total interest paid to date (£ 000)*
Basildon and Thurrock University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust	4.70	146
Basildon and Thurrock University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust	4.90	606
Bradford Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust	3.04	0
Calderdale and Huddersfield NHS Foundation Trust	4.48	194
Cambridge University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust	4.40	2,131
Cambridge University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust	3.94	0
Central Manchester University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust	2.67	0
Central Manchester University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust	2.92	0
Chelsea and Westminster Hospital NHS Foundation Trust	4.85	874
City Hospitals Sunderland NHS Foundation Trust	4.25	639
City Hospitals Sunderland NHS Foundation Trust	4.30	217
Derby Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust	4.85	1,101
Doncaster and Bassetlaw Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust	5.05	327
Dorset Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust	5.50	191
Gloucestershire Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust	4.95	978
Heatherwood and Wexham Park Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust	4.69	0
Heatherwood and Wexham Park Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust	4.08	0
Homerton University Hospital NHS Foundation Trust	4.90	74
Homerton University Hospital NHS Foundation Trust	4.90	186
Homerton University Hospital NHS Foundation Trust	5.60	283
King's College Hospital NHS Foundation Trust	5.21	0
King's College Hospital NHS Foundation Trust	5.34	0
Moorfields Eye Hospital NHS Foundation Trust	4.65	248
Moorfields Eye Hospital NHS Foundation Trust	4.60	691
Moorfields Eye Hospital NHS Foundation Trust	4.50	243
Moorfields Eye Hospital NHS Foundation Trust	4.45	78
Moorfields Eye Hospital NHS Foundation Trust	4.40	719
Moorfields Eye Hospital NHS Foundation Trust	5.05	78
Norfolk and Waveney NHS Foundation Trust	3.87	0
Papworth Hospital NHS Foundation Trust	5.55	270
Royal Berkshire NHS Foundation Trust	4.12	0
Royal Devon and Exeter NHS Foundation Trust	4.55	1,792
Royal Devon and Exeter NHS Foundation Trust	5.05	746
Sheffield Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust	4.80	571
Stockport NHS Foundation Trust	4.80	2,937
Stockport NHS Foundation Trust	3.43	0
The Rotherham NHS Foundation Trust	2.57	0
The Rotherham NHS Foundation Trust	3.23	0
University Hospital of South Manchester	3.51	0
Ashford and St Peter's Hospitals NHS Trust	5.40	1,374
Avon and Wiltshire Mental Health Partnership NHS Trust	5.45	459
Barnet and Chase Farm Hospitals NHS Trust	5.45	1,533
Royal Bolton Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust	5.50	367
Brighton and Sussex University Hospitals NHS Trust	5.40	2,807
East and North Hertfordshire NHS Trust	5.45	715
East Cheshire NHS Trust	5.50	570
East Sussex Hospitals NHS Trust	5.45	350
Epsom and St Helier University Hospitals NHS Trust	5.50	1,141
George Eliot Hospital NHS Trust	5.45	604
Heatherwood and Wexham Park Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust	5.45	263
Hereford Hospitals NHS Trust	5.50	268
Hull and East Yorkshire Hospitals NHS Trust	5.45	828
Ipswich Hospital NHS Trust	5.35	2,212
Mayday Healthcare NHS Trust	5.50	897
Mid Essex Hospital Services NHS Trust	5.45	1,737
North Bristol NHS Trust	5.05	4,890
Warrington and Halton Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust	5.50	718
North Cumbria Acute Hospitals NHS Trust	5.20	1,174

Interest rates and total interest paid on current loans to NHS trusts and NHS foundation trusts from the Department of Health

	National loan fund rate (fixed for term) (percentage)	*Total interest paid to date (£ 000)*
North Middlesex University Hospital NHS Trust	5.45	1,375
North West London Hospitals NHS Trust	5.45	2,184
Oxford Radcliffe Hospital NHS Trust	5.40	1,868
Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire Mental Health NHS Foundation Trust	5.45	218
Queen Elizabeth Hospital Kings Lynn NHS Trust	5.50	514
Robert Jones and Agnes Hunt Orthopaedic and District NHS Trust	5.50	276
Royal United Hospital Bath NHS Trust	5.05	3,489
Scarborough and North East Yorkshire Health Care NHS Trust	5.45	701
Shrewsbury and Telford Hospitals NHS Trust	5.50	1,002
South Warwickshire General Hospitals NHS Trust	5.35	1,763
Southampton University Hospitals NHS Trust	5.45	2,189
St George's Healthcare NHS Trust	5.45	3,115
Surrey and Sussex Healthcare NHS Trust	4.95	4,481
The Princess Alexandra Hospital NHS Trust	5.45	1,251
The Royal West Sussex NHS Trust	5.20	1,629
Trafford Healthcare NHS Trust	5.50	138
Trafford Healthcare NHS Trust	4.19	122
University Hospitals of Morecambe Bay NHS Trust	5.50	485
West Hertfordshire Hospitals NHS Trust	5.45	1,026
West Suffolk Hospitals NHS Trust	5.50	159
Whipps Cross University Hospital NHS Trust	5.30	2,528
Winchester and Eastleigh Healthcare NHS Trust	5.45	438
Worcestershire Acute Hospitals NHS Trust	5.45	2,291
Worthing and Southlands Hospitals NHS Trust	5.35	1,632
Barnet and Chase Farm Hospitals NHS Trust	3.97	65
Brighton and Sussex University Hospital NHS Trust	4.01	186
North Cumbria Acute Hospitals NHS Trust	5.10	29
North Cumbria Acute Hospitals NHS Trust	4.34	17
Scarborough and North East Yorkshire NHS Trust	5.20	53
Scarborough and North East Yorkshire NHS Trust	3.98	28
St Georges Healthcare NHS Trust	5.20	17
St Georges Healthcare NHS Trust	3.98	170
Worthing and Southlands Hospitals NHS Trust	5.15	77
Worthing and Southlands Hospitals NHS Trust	4.07	42
Mid Yorkshire Hospitals NHS Trust	5.39	968
Royal Cornwall Hospitals NHS Trust	5.32	1,547
Royal Cornwall Hospitals NHS Trust	1.63	0
The Royal Wolverhampton Hospitals NHS Trust	5.31	180
University Hospitals Coventry and Warwickshire NHS Trust	5.31	523
West Middlesex University NHS Trust	5.30	480
West Suffolk Hospitals NHS Trust	4.69	116
Weston Area Health NHS Trust	5.32	479
Weston Area Health NHS Trust	1.40	0
Barnet and Chase Farm Hospitals NHS Trust	0.82	0
East Cheshire	2.39	0
North East Ambulance Service NHS Trust	4.88	39
Oxford Radcliffe Hospital NHS Trust	4.19	251
Queen Elizabeth Hospital Kings Lynn NHS Trust	4.86	210
Robert Jones and Agnes Hunt Orthopaedic and District NHS Trust	4.85	31
Southampton University Hospitals NHS Trust	4.85	184
Southampton University Hospitals NHS Trust	4.19	305
Buckinghamshire Hospitals NHS Trust	4.88	169
East Sussex Hospitals NHS Trust	3.48	13
Great Western Ambulance Service NHS Trust	2.82	17
Hereford Hospitals NHS Trust	2.69	0
Hull and East Yorkshire NHS Trust	3.65	0
Warrington and Halton Hospitals Foundation Trust	4.88	109
Oxford Radcliffe Hospital NHS Trust	2.69	0
Plymouth Hospitals NHS Trust	2.69	0
South Central Ambulance Service NHS Trust	4.88	84
South Central Ambulance Service NHS Trust	3.48	30
Southampton University Hospitals NHS Trust	4.85	192
West Hertfordshire Hospitals NHS Trust	5.40	467

Interest rates and total interest paid on current loans to NHS trusts and NHS foundation trusts from the Department of Health

	National loan fund rate (fixed for term) (percentage)	*Total interest paid to date (£ 000)*
West Hertfordshire Hospitals NHS Trust	5.40	362

NHS: ICT

Norman Lamb: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent estimate he has made of the cost to the public purse of the NHS IT programme; and what recent assessment he has made of progress on the programme. [265647]

Mr. Bradshaw: The overall cost of the NHS Information Technology (IT) programme includes both central costs, and the costs managed by local NHS bodies incurred in implementing the systems, for example in training staff and upgrading computer hardware. Local information is not routinely collected in a way that differentiates expenditure on the IT programme from other local IT-related expenditure.

The latest estimate of the overall cost is contained in Figure 7 on page 26 of the National Audit Office (NAO) report 'The National Programme for IT in the NHS: Progress since 2006', which can be found at:

www.nao.org.uk/publications/nao_reports/07-08/07084844i.pdf

Of this total, the NAO estimated that some £3.5 billion had been spent as at 31 March 2008.

Many of the programme's systems have already been successfully delivered, and most of the infrastructure, including the network and central databases, are in place, as are the choose and book systems, and Picture Archiving and Communications (digital imaging) systems in every acute trust. All acute trusts and general practices in England, and over 90 per cent. of primary care trusts, are using systems delivered as part of the programme. The NHS in England could not now function without the systems which the programme has delivered.

Progress has been slower than anticipated with the NHS care record service at local trust level. We continue to work closely with suppliers to ensure that software is fit for purpose before deployment, and are in discussions aimed at ensuring that appreciable improvements are achieved by the end of 2009. We remain confident in the potential of both the Cerner Millennium and Lorenzo systems to be able to support the NHS in the longer term.

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will publish the Office of Government Commerce gateway reviews of the NHS IT programme. [266219]

Mr. Bradshaw: We are reviewing our previous policy not to disclose the review reports in light of the recent decision by the Office of Government Commerce to disclose two Gate 0 review reports on the identity cards programme. No final decision has yet been taken.

Physiology: Manpower

Sandra Gidley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many *(a)* audiologists, *(b)* cardiac physiologists, *(c)* gastro-intestinal physiologists, *(d)* neurophysiologists and *(e)* respiratory physiologists are employed by the NHS. [266380]

Ann Keen: Gastro-intestinal physiologists are not identified separately in the National Health Service Workforce Census. The number of audiologists, cardiac physiologists, neurophysiologists and respiratory physiologists are given in the following table.

	Headcount	*Full-time equivalent (FTE)*
Audiologists	802	624
Cardiac physiologists	989	820
Neurophysiologists	52	48
Respiratory physiologists	128	103

Plastic Surgery: Breasts

Tom Brake: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many NHS patients have received corrective surgery following breast augmentation surgery performed outside the NHS in each year from 1999. [266051]

Mr. Bradshaw: The information is not available centrally and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Tom Brake: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many patients *(a)* sought NHS-funded breast augmentation surgery, *(b)* were referred for a psychological assessment and *(c)* (i) were approved for and (ii) received treatment in each year since 1999. [266052]

Mr. Bradshaw: All the information requested is not collected centrally. Such information as is available is in the following table.

Finished consultant episodes (FCEs) where there is a primary or secondary procedure of breast augmentation in 1998-99 to 2007-08, activity in English national health service hospitals and English NHS commissioned activity in the independent sector

	Total FCEs
2007-08	1,601
2006-07	1,677
2005-06	1,739
2004-05	1,763
2003-04	1,539
2002-03	1,412
2001-02	1,196
2000-01	1,217
1999-2000	1,175
1998-99	1,310

Source:
Hospital Episode Statistics, The NHS Information Centre for health and social care

Prescriptions: Fees and Charges

Mrs. Riordan: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) if he will make it his policy to abolish prescription charges for people with long-term conditions before the end of the present Parliament; and if he will make a statement; [266910]

(2) which medical conditions are considered to be long-term conditions in the context of Professor Ian Gilmore's review of prescription charges. [267021]

Dawn Primarolo: The Government have asked the President of the Royal College of Physicians (Professor Ian Gilmore) to carry out a review of prescription charges that will consider how to implement the commitment to exempt patients with long-term conditions from prescription charges, including how exemption from charges can be phased in. The review is due to report its recommendations to departmental Ministers in summer 2009.

Primary Care Trusts: Freedom of Information

Mr. Gummer: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what guidance his Department provides to primary care trusts on the standards of their responses to requests under the Freedom of Information Act 2000. [264007]

Mr. Bradshaw: As public authorities in their own right, each primary care trust is responsible under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 for the responses it provides.

The Department has provided guidance to national health service organisations on the processes that they should have in place for managing their Freedom of Information requests and on the need for publication schemes to be in place by 1 January 2009.

Primary Health Care: Expenditure

Mr. Kemp: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much has been spent by his Department in providing primary care in each of the last 10 years. [265028]

Mr. Bradshaw: Total primary care expenditure, covering general practitioners, dentists, pharmacists and opticians, for the last 10 years from 1998-99 to 2007-08 is contained in the following table.

Family Health Services gross expenditure

£ million

	Cash		Resource								
	1998-99	*1999-2000*	*2000-01*	*2000-01*	*2001-02*	*2002-03*	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*
Drugs[1, 2]	4,356	4,052	5,168	5,160	5,714	6,345	6,963	7,376	7,235	7,593	7,663
GP Contract Total Spend[3, 4, 5]	3,158	3,420	3,624	3,734	3,919	4,084	5,006	6,103	6,851	6,943	7,053
General Dental Services (GDS)[6, 7]	1,430	1,477	1,555	1,561	1,638	1,709	1,767	1,671	1,440	n/a	n/a
Primary Dental Services (PDS)	4	13	22	22	36	41	48	200	757	n/a	n/a
PCT commissioned Primary Dental Care services	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	2,212	2,306
General Ophthalmic Services (GOS)[8]	240	281	292	290	302	304	322	340	359	381	405
Pharmaceutical services	701	808	856	867	879	919	962	966	1,162	1,033	1,054
Total Family Health Services	9,977	10,851	11,517	11,634	12,488	13,402	15,068	16,736	17,812	18,162	18,561

[1] Primary care figures include amounts paid to pharmacy and appliance contractors by the Prescription Pricing Division PPD and amounts authorised for dispensing doctors and personal administration in England. The data do not cover costs for drugs prescribed in hospital but dispensed in the community or private prescriptions.

[2] From 2000-01 figures are in resource terms, prior to this figures are in cash terms. Cash expenditure represents amounts paid between April to March to contractors for drugs, medicines, and appliances prescribed by general practitioners and nurses. These relate to February to January prescribing due to delay in prescription processing and payment calculations. Resource expenditure represents the actual cost of the prescriptions for drugs, medicines and appliances prescribed in the period April to March.

[3] All Former GP Contract 1997-98 to 2002-03 spend was Independent Contractor based including both combined General Medical Services Discretionary and Non-Discretionary Spend and Personal Medical Services Discretionary only spend. The new GP contract introduced from 2003-04 now covers General Medical Services, Personal Medical Services, Alternative Provider Medical Services and Primary Care Trust (PCT) Medical Service contracting services. All new GP contract funding is now Discretionary only as notified through PCTs Unified allocations.

[4] The normal GP contract spend remit for 2003-04 to 2007-08 is net of dispensing. Normally additional costs for dispensing fees and drug costs for dispensing doctors and non-dispensing doctors personal administration, are counted as part of the total contract cost. However, as these are formally part of the drugs bill cost we have adjusted to exclude for these years the amounts: £804 million, £854 million, £883 million, £814 million and £814 million respectively to avoid double counting within the FHS overall total.

[5] From 2000-01 onwards all figures are in resource terms following government accounting practice changes, prior to all this figures were reported in cash terms.

[6] All dental service costs are gross of patient charge income.

[7] General Dental Services expenditure in 2005-06 was enhanced by an accounting adjustment to correct an historic under-estimate of GDS creditor payments outstanding at the year end.

[8] GOS expenditure increased in 1999-2000 as a result of the extension of eligibility for NHS sight tests to all those aged 60 or over from 1 April 1999.

Sources:

Drugs: Spend figures are taken from the Prescription Pricing Division of the NHS Business services Authority, England.

GP Contract: 1996 to 2003-04 Former Old GP Contract data taken from the audited summarised NHS accounts of the 95 health authorities as replaced by 303 PCTs for England in 2002-03. 2003-to 2007-08 new Primary Medical Care nGMS contract spend is based on the audited returns of the 303 to 152 reconfigured PCT audited returns to the NHS summarised accounts.

General and Primary Dental Services (GDS): Dental Practice Board and PCT accounts data.

PCT commissioned Primary Dental Care services: Under the new dental service framework introduced from 1 April 2006 for local commissioning of primary dental care services, PCTs may commission general dental or specialist personal dental services according to local needs but only report aggregate primary dental care expenditure in central financial returns.

General Ophthalmic Services: These are a non discretionary or demand led service, where expenditure is determined mainly by the number of eligible patients who request NHS sight tests or who require NHS optical vouchers to help with the purchase of glasses or contact lenses.

Pharmaceutical services: Excludes services funded directly by PCTs and income from prescription charges.

Radiotherapy

Mark Simmonds: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many patients the NHS has funded to travel overseas to receive proton therapy treatment for cancer in each of the last three financial years; and what the cost of such treatment to the NHS was in each of those years. [260564]

Ann Keen: There are two routes in European Union law for national health service patients who wish to receive planned health care abroad. Via the E112 route under long-standing social security arrangements, departmental data suggest that 24 British patients were authorised to go abroad for proton therapy treatment over the last three financial years (2008-09, 2007-08 and 2006-07). The Department is unable to calculate the full cost of this treatment due to the nature of the EU claims process—there is often a lengthy delay between the provision of treatment and a claim being raised.

The Department does not collect data on people who choose to travel abroad for planned treatment under Article 49 of the EC Treaty—these data are currently held by primary care trusts.

From 1 April 2008, the proton therapy service has been nationally commissioned and designated by the National Commissioning Group (NCG). 18 cases have been recommended by the NCG's proton therapy clinical reference panel and agreed by the NCG for referral abroad. Not all cases have been accepted by proton centres abroad and not all patients have subsequently chosen to be treated by proton therapy. As at the beginning of March 2009, 14 of these 18 patients had been accepted for treatment in overseas centres. The total cost of this treatment will be available after the end of the financial year. We are aware that a small number of additional proton therapy patients have been funded using the E112 route in 2008-09.

Royal Blackburn Hospital: Accident and Emergency Departments

Mr. Gordon Prentice: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what discussions he has had with *(a)* the North West Strategic Health Authority and *(b)* the East Lancashire Hospitals NHS Trust on the Trust's recent performance figures for the accident and emergency department at the Royal Blackburn hospital; and if he will make a statement. [261399]

Mr. Bradshaw: Following the hon. Member's recent question at oral Health questions, and his tabling of this parliamentary question, I have sought assurances from the North West Strategic Health Authority (SHA) from the East Lancashire Hospitals National Health Service Trust on its recent accident and emergency performance at the Royal Blackburn hospital. I will be writing to the hon. Member shortly to outline the action the SHA and the Trust have taken.

Social Services: Elderly

Norman Lamb: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many and what proportion of older people in each local authority received local authority funded *(a)* residential and *(b)* domiciliary care in each of the last 10 years. [265757]

Phil Hope: Data on the number of older people receiving local authority funded domiciliary and residential care are collected and published by the NHS Information Centre for health and social care.

Information showing the numbers and proportion of older people aged 65 and over in local authority funded residential care, for the year ending 31 March from 1999 to 2008 and the number and proportion of older people aged 65 and over receiving local authority funded domiciliary care, for the year ending 31 March from 2002 to 2008 has been placed in the Library. Data on domiciliary care are not held centrally prior to 2001.

Norman Lamb: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much each local authority with social services responsibilities received in grants for older people in *(a)* cash and *(b)* real terms at 2008-09 prices in each of the last 10 years. [265766]

Phil Hope: The Department publishes local authority circulars and local authority and local authority social services letters. These set out the main departmental grants announced as part of the local government finance settlement which are relevant to the funding provided for social services.

A copy of the relevant local authority circulars and local authority and local authority social services letters has been placed in the Library.

Annex B provides a breakdown of all the grants which are solely or mainly provided to older people, over the eight-year period 2003-04 (when funding for children services became the responsibility of DCFS) to 2010-11 (the latest available data), at national total level.

Transplant Surgery: Foreigners

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many overseas organ transplant patients who had transplant surgery in the UK in each year since 1997 there were from each country of origin; and how many such patients from each country had their treatment paid for by *(a)* the NHS, *(b)* the health service of their country of origin and *(c)* other means. [266218]

Ann Keen: The following table shows organ transplants carried out in national health service hospitals into patients recorded as resident outside the United Kingdom[1], by country, April 1998 to March 2008, broken down by type of donor. Information is not held centrally on how many such patients from each country had their treatment paid for by the NHS, the health service of their country of origin or by other means.

[1] Excluding Republic of Ireland.

	Type of donor		
Country	*Deceased*	*Living*	*Total*
France	2	0	2
Germany	2	0	2
Netherlands	0	1	1
Italy	124	1	125
Portugal	6	0	6
Malta	23	3	26
Greece	97	5	102

	Type of donor		
Country	Deceased	Living	Total
Czech Republic	1	0	1
Hungary	0	1	1
Bulgaria	0	1	1
Cyprus	44	1	45
Slovenia	1	0	1
Denmark	1	0	1
Norway	1	0	1
Bosnia-Herzegovina	1	1	2
Serbia	2	0	2
Croatia	4	0	4
Gibraltar	3	1	4
Bermuda	0	1	1
British Virgin Islands	0	1	1
St. Vincent and Grenadines	0	2	2
Barbados	0	1	1
St. Helena	1	0	1
Canada	0	1	1
USA	1	0	1
Brazil	5	0	5
Hong Kong	2	0	2
China	1	0	1
Singapore	2	0	2
India	14	2	16
Pakistan	9	7	16
Nepal	1	0	1
Iran	3	8	11
Iraq	1	0	1
Afghanistan	1	0	1
Israel	2	1	3
Lebanon	0	2	2
Syria	1	0	1
Kuwait	65	14	79
UAE	35	14	49
Oman	0	2	2
Qatar	1	3	4
Saudi Arabia	12	5	17
Yemen	1	2	3
Bahrain	1	2	3
Egypt	138	0	138
Eritrea	1	0	1
Sudan	2	1	3
Libya	4	2	6
Angola	0	1	1
Cameroon	0	1	1
Ghana	0	3	3
Kenya	0	1	1
Zambia	3	0	3
Zimbabwe	1	3	4
Nigeria	0	3	3
South Africa	4	0	4
Unspecified EU	6	0	6
Unspecified non-EU	1	0	1
Total	631	98	729

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many *(a)* bone marrow and *(b)* tissue transplants were undertaken on persons resident outside the UK in each transplant facility in each year since 1997; and what the scale of payments for such transplants in each year was. [266228]

Ann Keen: The following table shows ocular tissue transplants carried out in national health service hospitals on patients recorded as resident outside the UK[1], April 1998 to March 2008. Information is not collated centrally on numbers of transplants of bone marrow or other tissues into patients resident within or outside the UK. The scale of payments for such transplants is not held centrally. Participating hospitals in the UK report data on the outcome of bone marrow transplants to the European Group for Blood and Marrow Transplantation which collects information on the outcome of transplants throughout Europe.

[1] Excluding Republic of Ireland

Transplant unit	Cornea	Sclera	Total
London, Moorfield's Hospital	22	7	29
East Grinstead, Queen Victoria Hospital	10	0	10
London, Great Ormond Street Hospital	3	2	5
Brighton, Sussex Eye Hospital	4	0	4
London, St. George's Hospital	3	0	3
Halifax, Calderdale Hospital	1	0	1
Leeds General Infirmary	1	0	1
Bury St. Edmund's, West Suffolk Hospital	1	0	1
Ashford Hospital (Middlesex)	1	0	1
London, St. Thomas Hospital	1	0	1
Exeter, Royal Devon and Exeter Hospital	1	0	1
Shrewsbury, Eye, Ear and Throat Hospital	1	0	1
Wolverhampton, New Cross Hospital	1	0	1
Dundee, Ninewells Hospital	1	0	1
Bridgend, Princess of Wales Hospital	1	0	1
Total	52	9	61

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much he has allocated for his Department's review of organ donations to people living outside the UK; and what plans he has to make allocations to hospitals in respect of the staff time involved in conducting the review. [266223]

Ann Keen: The Department has contracted with Elisabeth Buggins, former chair of the Organ Donation Taskforce, to undertake the review of organ allocation to non-UK European Union residents and to report her findings by June 2009. Cost implications for the national health service for involvement in the review are not expected to be significant other than that, any funding requirements will be considered during the course of the review.

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 23 February 2009, *Official Report*, columns 259-60W, on transplant surgery: foreigners, how many of the organs used for transplants to overseas residents came from UK donors on the organ donation register; and at which units in private hospitals the transplants took place. [266225]

Ann Keen: The following table shows the organ donor register status of deceased donors whose organs were transplanted in national health service hospitals into patients recorded as resident outside the UK[1], April 1998 to March 2008. Information is not collated centrally at which units within private hospitals or NHS trusts transplants take place.

[1] Excluding Republic of Ireland

Organ donor register status of deceased donors

	Number
Registered	113
Not registered	299
Not recorded	219
Total	631

Transplant Surgery: Payments

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what measures are in place to ensure that NHS patients receiving organs from *(a)* cadaveric and *(b)* live donation made (i) inside and (ii) outside the UK have not made payment for such organs. [266222]

Ann Keen: Section 32 of the Human Tissue Act 2004 makes it illegal to deal commercially in human material for transplantation. In effect this prohibits commercial dealing in all human material for transplants, subject to certain exceptions. Most importantly it makes trafficking in organ, tissue and cells for transplantation an offence and liable for a fine, imprisonment or both.

The Human Tissue Act does allow for the live donor to receive reimbursement of out of pocket expenses, such as travel costs and loss of earnings that are reasonably attributable to and directly a result of an organ donation.

All such payments must be made by a proper authority, for example, national health service commissioners or hospitals. Donors must not be reimbursed directly by the recipient nor by their family or friends. The Human Tissue Authority requires that checks are made to ensure that no other payment of any kind is made and that the donor does not make a profit from the donation.

Tunbridge Wells Homeopathic Hospital

Hugh Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether he plans to close the Tunbridge Wells homeopathic hospital; and if he will make a statement. [265840]

Phil Hope *[holding answer 23 March 2009]:* Maidstone and Tunbridge Wells NHS Trust will no longer be providing homeopathic services for patients in West Kent from 1 April 2009. This follows a detailed clinical study by NHS West Kent in 2007 which concluded that it was not in the interests of overall patient care to continue to commission this service. It is the trust's understanding that the primary care trust will in future commission homeopathic services for patients on a case by case basis where each patient's clinical need is assessed.

Air Pollution

Graham Stringer: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate he has made of the changes in the incidence of *(a)* lung and *(b)* cardiovascular diseases in rural populations attributable to changes in levels of air pollution in each of the next 10 years if the Government's target of 39 TWh of renewable energy generation from biomass plant by 2020 is achieved. [264632]

Huw Irranca-Davies: I have been asked to reply.

DEFRA analysed six different scenarios. These assessed the impacts of the level of final uptake of biomass heat in 2020, the fuels likely to be replaced, and the locations in which biomass heat likely to be used. The analysis focused on the small industrial/commercial, public and domestic sectors. It should be noted that all large combustion plant (above 20MWth) and those burning waste material are already subject to strict emission limits and are therefore not likely to have a significant adverse impact on air quality. Replacement of coal for power generation may have a beneficial effect on air quality.

The six scenarios analysed were:

1. Final uptake in 2020 of 52TWh of heat, using high quality units (i.e. the best currently on the market in terms of emissions), with no bias for location or fuel replaced (i.e. uptake simply followed the current geographical patterns for heat demand);
2. Uptake of 52TWh, using medium quality units (i.e. average of units currently available on the market), no fuel or location bias;
3. Uptake of 50TWh, using high quality units and with a fuel and location bias (i.e. uptake tends to be away from Air Quality Management Areas—which are predominantly urban—and to replace coal and oil heating);
4. Uptake of 50TWh, using medium quality units and with a fuel and location bias;
5. Uptake of 38TWh, using high quality units and with a fuel and location bias;
6. Uptake of 38TWh, using medium quality units and with a fuel and location bias.

These scenarios were modelled on a national basis and compared with a 'business as usual' scenario, to assess the additional impact of biomass heat uptake. It was found that the impact on concentrations of nitrogen dioxide was negligible on a national basis. The impacts on concentrations of fine particles (PM_{10}) were assessed for additional lengths of road exceeding the mandatory air quality limit values for PM_{10} and the costs to society of additional health impacts. The results of this analysis are presented in the following table.

Unit emission levels	*Final uptake level in 2020*	*Fuel and location bias?*	*Additional Km of roads exceeding PM_{10} limit value in 2020*	*Annual social (health) cost in 2020 (£ million)*
Medium-equates to average performance of current plant	52 TWh	No	577	2,803
	50 TWh	Yes	20	732
	38 TWh	Yes	9	557
High-equates to top end performance of current plant	52 TWh	No	138	731
	50 TWh	Yes	3	189

Unit emission levels	*Final uptake level in 2020*	*Fuel and location bias?*	*Additional Km of roads exceeding PM_{10} limit value in 2020*	*Annual social (health) cost in 2020 (£ million)*
	38 TWh	Yes	2.5	142

DEFRA has made no direct assessment of the changes in incidence of lung and cardiovascular diseases. However, my Department has analysed the air quality impact of biomass heat uptake in accordance with the assumptions made in the Renewable Energy Strategy consultation document. These impacts have then been monetised, using advice from the Department of Health on the health effects of particles and economic methodologies agreed by the Interdepartmental Group on Costs and Benefits.

WOMEN AND EQUALITY

Equal Pay

Julie Morgan: To ask the Minister for Women and Equality whether her Department has evaluated research on the effects the contingency fee funding mechanism used by lawyers for equal pay claims through the employment tribunal. [265693]

Bridget Prentice: I have been asked to reply.

The Ministry of Justice commissioned a scoping study in June 2008 into the use of 'no win no fee' covering conditional and contingency fees, in personal injury, employment and defamation cases. The objective was to advise on the feasibility of a fuller review. The scoping study has been completed and we expect to publish its report shortly.

INNOVATION, UNIVERSITIES AND SKILLS

Anti-Semitism

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills pursuant to the answer of 11 March 2009, *Official Report*, column 545W, on higher education: anti-Semitism, what progress has been made in setting up the dedicated sub-group to the cross government working group against anti-Semitism; who the initial members of the sub-group will be; on what date the first meeting of the group is planned; and if he will make a statement. [266987]

Mr. Lammy: The following organisations have been invited to an initial meeting on Tuesday 7 April:

Union of Jewish Students
Community Security Trust
Board of Deputies of British Jews
Universities UK
GuildHE
Equality Challenge Unit
National Union of Students
University and College Union
Association of Managers of Student Services in Higher Education
Association for Managers in Student Unions
The Office of the Independent Adjudicator for Higher Education
Higher Education Funding Council for England
All Party Parliamentary Group Against Anti-Semitism
Communities and Local Government (observer status)

At this first meeting the group will agree its continuing membership and terms of reference. We see this group as playing an important role in helping to tackle anti-Semitism in higher education.

Basic Skills

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how many people have registered for skills accounts in the last 12 months. [266120]

Mr. Simon: The first year of skills accounts trials began in 29 September 2008 in two LSC regions, South East and East Midlands, and national trials will begin in September 2009. The aim of the regional trials is to develop and test a high quality experience for users, rather than maximise volumes. This means there are no targets for the number of individuals registering for a skills account as part of the trial. As part of the preparation for national roll-out from 2010/11 we will model expected volumes while ensuring skills accounts meet the needs of users.

As of 20 March, a total of 10,823 individuals had opened a skills account. Of these 7,905 had done so via the Careers Advice Service, 1,864 via the web and 1,054 via one of accredited learning providers in the trial regions.

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how many hits the skills accounts website has received since it was set up. [266183]

Mr. Simon: The first year of skills accounts trials began in 29 September 2008 in two LSC regions, South East and East Midlands, and national trials will begin in September 2009. The aim of the regional trials is to develop and test a high quality experience for users, rather than maximise volumes. This means there are no targets for the number of individuals registering for a skills account as part of the trial. As part of the preparation for national roll-out from 2010/11 we will model expected volumes whilst ensuring skills accounts meet the needs of users.

At this stage we are not collect data on the number of hits on the skills accounts website (accessed via DirectGov) as the system is continuing to develop. An evaluation of the trial will capture detailed reflections about the user experience. When development of the system is complete we will put in place ways of evaluating the frequency of visits to the website and how the tools on it are used.

Departmental Databases

Mrs. Laing: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how many *(a)* records and *(b)* data fields there are in the Managing Information Across Partners system. [265741]

Mr. Simon: I have been asked to reply as the Minister responsible for the Learning and Skills Council.

Managing Information Across Partners (MIAP) provides a set of services in support of the Transformational Government Agenda. It is about streamlining and improving how information on learners and learning is used within the education and training sectors so that excellent services are made available to individuals, employers and their communities.

MIAP offers three internet-based services: a provider-facing Learner Registration Service which assigns a unique learner number to everyone over the age of 14 in education and training; a learner-facing Learner Record Service which is in development, and which uses the unique learner number to enable learner access to their lifelong learning records for the very first time, and a UK Register of Learning Providers, which supports the sharing of learning provider information and brokerage. These services are supported by best practice data sharing protocols in line with data protection legislation.

Over 5.6 million unique learner numbers have been created. For each unique learner number, a unique learner number record is created with up to 16 data fields, of which six are mandatory.

The UKRLP lists over 22,000 learning and training providers. These records provide details of individual training organisations, and the services they provide, along with links to other information such as inspection reports.

Departmental Training

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills which training courses were *(a)* available to and *(b)* taken up by (i) civil servants and (ii) Ministers in his Department in the last 12 months. [265304]

Mr. Simon: The Department primarily offers a range of learning and development opportunities to employees linked to the Professional Skills for Government agenda and its business and improvement objectives. The programmes include: Leadership; Policy Development Skills; Strategic Thinking; Analysis and Use of Evidence; Programme and Project Management; Contract Management; Financial Management; People Management; and Drafting and Writing Skills. Courses can be off-the-job training, e-learning or access to a range of learning and coaching materials. Information about employee learning and development take-up is not held centrally and a search of local records could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Learning and development courses have been arranged for Ministers in the Department in the last 12 months and the following courses have been undertaken:

Foreign language lessons
Cabinet Committees
European Union
Media Training.

Further Education

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills if he will make it his policy to issue guidance to post-16 specialist colleges on the *(a)* funding available for capital projects to be undertaken by such colleges and *(b)* application process for such funding. [266067]

Mr. Simon: The Learning and Skills Council (LSC) is responsible for the administration of the further education (FE) capital programme, which includes capital allocations to post-16 specialist colleges. The LSC is subsequently responsible for the management of the programme and for the issuing of any associated guidance.

As we have previously announced, we asked Sir Andrew Foster to report on the background to the current situation we have with the FE capital programme—which he is due to complete later this month.

We need to understand how the current serious problems arose and what lessons must be learned for the future operation and delivery of the FE capital programme, particularly within the context of the new Machinery of Government arrangements.

Higher Education: Research

Rosie Cooper: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what steps his Department is taking to ensure that the distribution of research funding maximises the potential to assist small and medium-sized science-based and manufacturing enterprises located close to research universities. [263058]

Mr. Lammy: Research funding for universities is allocated on the basis of excellence and not proximity to businesses. And whilst there is no support specifically targeting businesses located close to research universities, Government do provide support through a range of programmes to help businesses meet the challenges they face in starting up, running and growing their operations.

The Technology Strategy Board and its partners provide support for businesses through a number of mechanisms including collaborative R and D, which supports joint projects between business and academia; networking to help industry access knowledge and information central to innovation growth; and through knowledge transfer partnerships, which support the transfer of knowledge from academia to a business through the transfer of people.

Innovation vouchers, announced in the 2008 Innovation Nation White Paper, are also a means to help small businesses benefit from the expertise offered by the research base. The voucher is used by the business to 'buy' services such as specialist advice from a knowledge-based institution of their choice.

Grant for research and development, available regionally through the English regional development agencies, provides grants of up to £500,000 to help small and medium sized businesses to research and develop technologically innovative products and processes. DIUS is also working with RDAs to adopt a new national framework for proof of concept support to provide a tailored package of support that may include funding, access to facilities, networks and mentoring, and help for businesses to become investment ready.

Science: Higher Education

Sammy Wilson: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what steps the Government are taking to increase the uptake of science, technology, engineering and mathematics courses in universities by British students. [264740]

Mr. Lammy: The Government are committed to increasing the number of young people studying science, technology, engineering and maths (STEM) subjects post-16 and in higher education. The Department is working closely with the Department for Children, Schools and Families (DCSF) on STEM skills to ensure that teaching and learning of science in schools is sufficiently interesting and challenging to inspire more able pupils to pursue STEM subjects in higher education and beyond.

DCSF is investing £140 million to support the STEM agenda in schools in England. The Higher Education Funding Council for England (HEFCE) has undertaken a £350 million programme of work to support strategically important and vulnerable subjects which include STEM and additional funding of £75 million to support the high costs of some science subjects.

Students: Loans

Mr. Willetts: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how many complaints have been made against the Student Loans Company for its use of bailiffs in error in cases where former students have not defaulted on their payments in the last 12 months. [265052]

Mr. Lammy: The Student Loans Company (SLC) employs debt collectors where borrowers persistently fail to respond to SLC's attempts to contact them by telephone or letter. SLC does not employ bailiffs for the purposes of debt collection. However, if SLC's debt collectors also fail and SLC proceeds to litigate, the courts engage bailiffs to serve papers or to enforce county court judgments.

The SLC does not maintain statistics for this category of complaint. Generic complaints about the use of debt collectors by the SLC amounted to 37 cases in the last 12 months, which is a small percentage of the cases managed by debt collectors.

In all cases, the borrower was in default when the debt collector approached them. The only reported exception was the case of a borrower who appeared to be in default but was due to have the repayments met by the Department for Children, Schools and Families (DCSF) under the now closed Repayment of Teacher Loans Scheme.

Work Experience

Mr. Rob Wilson: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills (1) when he expects the national internship scheme to commence; [266585]

(2) which body will administer payments to businesses participating in the national internship scheme; [266586]

(3) pursuant to the answer of 19 January 2009, *Official Report*, columns 1165-6W, on work experience, what further progress has been made on implementing the national internship scheme; which organisations have agreed to take part; how many extra internships will be available at these organisations in 2009 compared to 2008; and how many places will be available in each local authority area. [266590]

Mr. Lammy: The new internship programme will take effect from the autumn of 2009, and will offer graduates the opportunity both to apply their learning in a working situation and to build the work-ready skills they will need for permanent employment. We are still working with stakeholders to finalise the details of the programme but expect to make a further announcement about our plans in the next few weeks.

The Government are committed to helping new graduates into work in these challenging economic times and internships are one option in a range of opportunities available to those who are unable immediately to find a suitable job.

Young People: North West

Andrew Stunell: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how many and what proportion of *(a)* males and *(b)* females aged between 18 and 21 years were in (i) education, (ii) employment and (iii) training in each local authority area in the North West in each of the last five years. [264324]

Mr. Simon: Estimates of 18 to 21-year-olds in education, employment or training are calculated using the Labour Force Survey (LFS). The sample sizes on the LFS for small geographical regions, such as local authority, are too small to make robust estimates. However, we can estimate the proportion of 18-year-olds in education, employment or training from information collected by the Connexions service. This is given as follows.

Proportion of 18-year-olds in education, employment or training

				Percentage
	Education	*Employment*	*Training*	*EET*
England	63.4	21.3	8.0	92.7
North West	60.8	20.2	10.1	91.1
Cheshire	63.0	25.5	6.1	94.6
Warrington	58.8	26.1	7.4	92.3
Cumbria	53.4	24.1	16.2	93.7
Bolton	55.0	23.0	10.9	88.8
Bury	67.8	18.4	6.8	93.0
Manchester	69.5	13.2	5.8	88.5
Oldham	65.5	15.4	11.1	92.0
Rochdale	61.3	21.4	9.6	92.3
Salford	57.6	24.7	9.0	91.3
Stockport	69.7	16.2	6.2	92.1
Trafford	73.0	12.7	7.6	93.3
Tameside	61.6	19.9	11.2	92.7
Wigan	55.3	21.2	12.4	88.9
Halton	48.3	25.9	8.9	83.1
Knowsley	48.8	21.2	13.6	83.7
Liverpool	56.4	18.1	12.4	87.0
Sefton	64.1	19.1	7.4	90.6
St. Helens	61.6	17.2	10.2	89.0
Wirral	58.7	20.9	10.5	90.1
Blackburn with Darwen	62.6	17.7	9.4	89.8
Blackpool	63.5	18.7	8.5	90.8

Proportion of 18-year-olds in education, employment or training

	Education	*Employment*	*Training*	*Percentage EET*
Lancashire	59.1	20.9	12.5	92.5

ENERGY AND CLIMATE CHANGE

Air Pollution

Graham Stringer: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change with reference to paragraph 4.6.14 of the UK Renewable Energy Strategy consultation document, what recent assessment he has made of the potential cumulative effect on air quality of fine particles and nitrogen dioxide emissions from the future large-scale deployment of biomass appliances or plant. [264735]

Huw Irranca-Davies: I have been asked to reply.

DEFRA analysed six different scenarios. These assessed the impacts of the level of final uptake of biomass heat in 2020, the fuels likely to be replaced, and the locations in which biomass heat likely to be used. The analysis focused on the small industrial/commercial, public and domestic sectors. It should be noted that all large combustion plant (above 20MWth) and those burning waste material are already subject to strict emission limits and are therefore not likely to have a significant adverse impact on air quality. Replacement of coal for power generation may have a beneficial effect on air quality.

The six scenarios analysed were:

1. Final uptake in 2020 of 52TWh of heat, using high quality units (i.e. the best currently on the market in terms of emissions), with no bias for location or fuel replaced (i.e. uptake simply followed the current geographical patterns for heat demand);

2. Uptake of 52TWh, using medium quality units (i.e. average of units currently available on the market), no fuel or location bias;

3. Uptake of 50TWh, using high quality units and with a fuel and location bias (i.e. uptake tends to be away from Air Quality Management Areas—which are predominantly urban—and to replace coal and oil heating);

4. Uptake of 50TWh, using medium quality units and with a fuel and location bias;

5. Uptake of 38TWh, using high quality units and with a fuel and location bias;

6. Uptake of 38TWh, using medium quality units and with a fuel and location bias.

These scenarios were modelled on a national basis and compared with a 'business as usual' scenario, to assess the additional impact of biomass heat uptake. It was found that the impact on concentrations of nitrogen dioxide was negligible on a national basis. The impacts on concentrations of fine particles (PM_{10}) were assessed for additional lengths of road exceeding the mandatory air quality limit values for PM_{10} and the costs to society of additional health impacts. The results of this analysis are presented in the following table.

Unit emission levels	*Final uptake level in 2020*	*Fuel and location bias?*	*Additional Km of roads exceeding PM_{10} limit value in 2020*	*Annual social (health) cost in 2020 (£ million)*
Medium -equates to average performance of current plant	52 TWh	No	577	2,803
	50 TWh	Yes	20	732
	38 TWh	Yes	9	557
High-equates to top end performance of current plant	52 TWh	No	138	731
	50 TWh	Yes	3	189
	38 TWh	Yes	2.5	142

DEFRA has made no direct assessment of the changes in incidence of lung and cardiovascular diseases. However, my Department has analysed the air quality impact of biomass heat uptake in accordance with the assumptions made in the Renewable Energy Strategy consultation document. These impacts have then been monetised, using advice from the Department of Health on the health effects of particles and economic methodologies agreed by the Interdepartmental Group on Costs and Benefits.

Carbon Emissions

Simon Hughes: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what recent estimate he has made of the contribution of low-carbon industries to the *(a)* UK and *(b)* EU economy; and what assessment he has made of likely changes in the level of that contribution in the next 10 years. [265869]

Joan Ruddock: The Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform has recently (6 March 2009) published a report by Innovas Solutions Ltd., titled "Low Carbon and Environmental Goods and Services: an industry analysis". The full report is available at:

www.berr.gov.uk

This report estimated that the size of the 'low carbon and environmental goods and services sector' in the UK in 2007-08 was £107 billion, representing around 7 per cent. of UK economy.

The market value of this sector is forecast to grow to £154.85 billion in 2014-15. This represents an increase (in real terms) of 45 per cent. of the total market value by 2015. No forecast of growth beyond 2015 has been made.

The market for the 'low carbon and environmental goods and services sector' in Europe in 2007-08 is estimated to be £829 billion. This figure represents Innovas' definition of Europe according to their regional grouping of countries, and is not limited to the EU economy. No comparable estimates have been made for the EU economy, or for the growth rates of the European low carbon and environmental goods and services sector.

Departmental Buildings

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how much was spent by his Department on *(a)* furniture and *(b)* renovation and decoration for departmental buildings since its establishment. [265406]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The Department for Energy and Climate Change was established on 3 October 2008. The Department is currently moving to a single office building. By the end of the present financial year, the Department is expected to spend a total of *(a)* £301,626 on furniture and *(b)* £1,117,500 on renovation and decoration. Nothing has been spent by agencies.

All figures are exclusive of VAT.

Departmental Empty Property

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what estimate he has made of the change in the annual cost to his Department of maintaining the empty public buildings owned by his Department and its predecessor as a result of the April 2008 changes to empty property rate relief. [267072]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The Department of Energy and Climate Change does not yet own any buildings.

Departmental Information Officers

Greg Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what the average cost to his Department of employing a press and media officer is. [256060]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The average cost of employing a press officer in the Department of Energy and Climate Change is £39,869 per annum (salary plus national insurance and superannuation).

Departmental NDPBs

Greg Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change with reference to the Answer of 4 November 2008, *Official Report*, columns 453-4W, on the Nuclear Decommissioning Authority, by what date he expects the discussions on the role of the bodies referred to to be completed. [255938]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The Nuclear Decommissioning Authority, Office of Nuclear Development, Sustainable Development Commission and Office of Climate Change all have a clear role to play in DECC achieving its objectives for energy and climate change.

The Nuclear Decommissioning Authority is a non-departmental public body set up under the Energy Act 2004 to ensure that the UK's civil public nuclear legacy sites are decommissioned and cleaned up efficiently and effectively.

The Office for Nuclear Development was created to facilitate new nuclear investment in the UK. Its aims are to enable operators to build and operate new nuclear power stations in the UK from the earliest possible date and to enable new nuclear to make the fullest contribution it is capable of, with no public subsidy, and with unnecessary obstacles removed; to build and maintain the UK as the best market in the world for companies to do business in nuclear power; and to create and support a globally competitive UK supply chain, focusing on high value added activities to take advantage of the UK and worldwide nuclear programme. OND brings together the Government teams and resources focused on facilitating new nuclear investment in the UK and providing industry with a single point of contact.

The Office of Climate Change is now part of DECC but retains the capacity to undertake cross-cutting projects and is funded by contributing Departments across Whitehall.

The Sustainable Development Commission is an independent adviser to Government on sustainable development. Its role has not been affected by the creation of DECC and my Department will continue to benefit from its advice.

Departmental Public Appointments

Harry Cohen: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what information his Department holds on the number of persons appointed to executive positions in bodies for which his Department has responsibility who previously had careers in the banking industry. [261243]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: Responsibility for most recruitment is delegated to the Department's different business units and as a consequence there is no central record of persons with previous careers in the banking industry. To compile such a record would incur a disproportionate cost for the Department.

Departmental Reorganisation

Greg Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change by what date he expects all of his Department's staff to be based in his Department's offices. [266620]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The first phase of moves of DECC staff into 3 Whitehall Place (the Department's London office) is currently under way. Planning for the second phase is currently under way and it is not yet possible to specify a date for the completion of the moves but it is expected to be during the summer. DECC staff are already in residence in Atholl House, the Department's Scottish office.

Departmental Responsibilities

Greg Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change for what public service agreements his Department has responsibility. [266602]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The Department of Energy and Climate Change has responsibility for public service agreement 27—Lead the global effort to avoid dangerous climate change.

Energy Supply

Mr. Kidney: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change if he will bring forward a programme of measures to provide security of supply of energy in the UK during the period 2010 to 2030. [266144]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: Government works to ensure there is a stable regulatory framework within which the private sector can invest to deliver secure and reliable energy supplies. Government action to ensure security of supply includes: reform of the planning and consents regime, promoting energy efficiency, creating the necessary framework to facilitate a diverse mix of low carbon sources of supply, and promoting liberalised energy markets globally.

Energy: Research

Gregory Barker: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what his Department's research and development budget in support of research into clean energy is in the next 12 months. [255178]

Mr. Lammy: I have been asked to reply.

The Department for Innovation Universities and Skills (DIUS) provides funding to the Technology Strategy Board and the Research Councils to support research and development.

The Research Councils' planned expenditure on energy research and related training is expected to exceed £300 million over the period 2008-11.

The Technology Strategy Board has a current portfolio of 76 collaborative projects (worth ca £140 million) on emerging low carbon energy technologies. Following two recent calls in Carbon Abatement Technologies and Fuel Cells and Hydrogen Technologies, further funding will be committed in the next 12 months. It is also expanding its portfolio in areas relating to the low carbon agenda through a range of initiatives including Innovation Platforms—one focused on Low Carbon Vehicles is coordinating over £100 million of public sector support to accelerate the market introduction of ultra low carbon vehicles.

In addition, DIUS has committed to provide up to £50 million pa (through the Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council and Technology Strategy Board) to the Energy Technologies Institute (ETI), to be matched by industry partners. ETI is establishing a portfolio of development projects in low carbon energy technologies.

The Department of Energy and Climate Change also provides some funding through the Environmental Transformation Fund (ETF) for clean energy research. The annual budget for the ETF and its component programmes, including the Carbon Trust, will be agreed in due course.

Forests: Carbon Emissions

Simon Hughes: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how much funding he has allocated to reduce levels of deforestation for the purposes of reducing levels of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere in each of the next 10 years. [265821]

Joan Ruddock: The Climate talks in Bali in December 2007 recognised that reduced emissions from deforestation and degradation (REDD) should be part of a post-2012 climate deal. The Bali Action Plan paves the way for the development of incentives to reduce emissions from both wholesale deforestation and more gradual damage, and to consider how to reward the sustainable management of forests ahead of the 15th Conference of the Parties in Copenhagen in 2009.

We are negotiating options for financing with our partners in the run up to the Copenhagen agreement. The EU recognised at the Spring Council (19-20 March 2009) that significant domestic and external sources of finance, both private and public, will be required to finance mitigation and adaptation actions, particularly in the most vulnerable developing countries. The UK, as part of the European Union, will take on its fair share of financing such actions in developing countries, and is examining credible and innovative options for raising significant volumes of finance. The European Council will discuss these issues in more detail at its June meeting, following fu[illegible] consultation with other developed and developing c[illegible].

However, in advance of internationally agreed mechanisms, it is necessary to test approaches and build capacity in developing countries. At the climate change negotiations in Poznan last December the UK announced up to £100 million to support such work. This is in addition to a £15 million contribution to the World Bank Forest Carbon Partnership Facility which assists developing countries in working out how they can participate in and benefit from evolving incentive mechanisms for avoided deforestation. The UK has also committed £60 million to help reduce deforestation and poverty in the Congo Basin. The Congo Basin Forest Fund, launched in June 2008, will support transformative and innovative proposals from the countries of the Congo Basin and civil society to slow the rate of deforestation.

Simon Hughes: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what consideration he has given to the merits of establishing schemes for forest protection as a measure of reducing levels of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere before *(a)* 2012, *(b)* 2020 and *(c)* 2030. [265852]

Joan Ruddock: The Climate talks in Bali in December 2007 recognised that reduced emissions from deforestation and degradation (REDD) should be part of a post-2012 climate deal. The Bali Action Plan paves the way for the development of incentives to reduce emissions from both wholesale deforestation and more gradual damage, and to consider how to reward the sustainable management of forests ahead of the 15th Conference of the Parties in Copenhagen in 2009.

We know that reducing deforestation will be expensive; available estimates suggest it will cost in the range of £10 billion to £20 billion a year to halve deforestation by 2030. But the evidence also suggests that the benefits of reducing deforestation will be many times greater than the costs. The Poznan Forestry Statement made in December last year agreed that:

> "financial flows to support Reductions in Emissions from Deforestation and Degradation (REDD) efforts must be adequate, predictable and sustainable, and results based, with developed countries contributing significantly."

The UK is in the process of discussing options for financing mechanisms for forestry, although this must occur in the context of discussions on broader climate change finance. The UK as part of the European Union will take on its fair share of financing such actions in developing countries, and is examining credible and innovative options for raising significant volumes of finance. The European Council will discuss these issues in more detail at its June meeting, following further consultation with other developed and developing countries.

Pre-2012 support for capacity building will be necessary and funding for early demonstration projects will prepare the groundwork for later investment. We are undertaking a study to examine the options for frontloading finance for forestry and options for a financing mechanism that uses public funding to mobilise substantial private investment into sustainable forest management, leading to REDD+ (enhancement of forest carbon stocks) and co-benefits such as protecting biodiversity and eradicating poverty. We hope to be able to consult on the outcomes of this in April or May this year.

However, sustainable funding at the scale required to tackle deforestation effectively will be unlikely to be provided through public funding alone, particularly in the longer-term. Ultimately, we need to build a mechanism which is self-sustaining, and the carbon market seems to offer the best opportunity for this. Therefore, limited access to the carbon market from 2012 to 2020 could offer an important way of working towards full market access in the longer-term and would send a strong signal to investors. We welcome the European Commission's leadership and the December Environment Council Conclusions which suggests that a new market mechanism for forest credits should be established on a trial basis and deforestation credits could be valid for Government compliance with post 2012 commitments.

Green Jobs

Simon Hughes: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what the Government's definition of a green job is. [264690]

Joan Ruddock: There is no single definition of a 'green job' because we do not believe that some jobs should be green and others not. On 6 March we published our vision of a low carbon economy for the UK. Achieving that vision means that every job should be a green job. Every plumber should know how to fit a biomass boiler, and every welder should be equipped to work in construction of green technologies. This is not about creating a wholly separate part of our economy, but about allowing people from all sectors to benefit from the move to low carbon by developing and using the core skills for their job. A full Low Carbon Industrial Strategy will be published in the summer. By continuing efforts to build a low carbon economy we will create the jobs and growth we need now. Turnover in the low carbon and environmental goods and services sector, which already employs 880,000 people in the UK, could rise to over £150 billion and employment could rise to 1.3 million by 2015.

Low Carbon Buildings Programme

Charles Hendry: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what assessment he has made of *(a)* the finances and *(b)* the international competitiveness of the UK renewables sector of the withdrawal of the Low Carbon Buildings Programme Phase 2. [254406]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The Low Carbon Buildings Programme (LCBP) Phase 2 has been open since January 2007 and is due to close in June 2009. To date we have committed £33.1 million of the £50 million budget; however, a significant amount of work will be completed for the period through to mid 2010.

We have recently seen a significant increase in solar PV applications and the £24.5 million funding for this technology has been fully committed. In order to therefore manage LCBP Phase 2 through to June 2009 we have advised new solar PV applicants that applications will be put on hold while we consider potential options to extend solar PV funding. However, the programme is still open to solar thermal, biomass, micro wind and ground source heat pump projects. We would like to see eligible organisations wishing to install these technologies making maximum use of the grants programme for the three months remaining.

We are currently giving careful consideration to the transition from grant funding and other incentives to the proposed small scale electricity feed-in tariff and renewable heat support mechanism. A feed-in tariffs (FITs) mechanism for small-scale, low-carbon electricity generation is currently being developed. We will consult on the details of the scheme this summer and FITs will be in place in April 2010. A mechanism for a Renewable Heat Incentive is also being developed and the details of this scheme will also be consulted on. We intend to have the RHI in place in April 2011.

As part of its Manufacturing Strategy the Government has set up the Office of Renewable Energy Deployment. This Office will help deliver the necessary step-change in the deployment of renewable energy in the UK to meet the 2020 target.

These measures, among many others, should help the renewable sector to continue to develop in the UK and to take decisions on international developments.

Natural Gas: Imports

Lady Hermon: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what assessment he has made of the effect of the recent dispute between the Russian and Ukrainian Governments on UK gas supplies. [254268]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: Russia's decision to cut gas supplies to Ukraine had no direct impact on gas supply in the UK which is estimated to receive less than 2 per cent. of its gas directly from Russia.

Nuclear Power: Safety

Greg Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change which independent organisations advise the Government on nuclear safety. [266787]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The Health and Safety Executive (HSE) advises the Government on nuclear safety. In addition to its own experts, the HSE is able to call on many external sources of advice on nuclear safety.

Oil: Reserves

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change pursuant to the Answer of 18 March 2009, *Official Report*, columns 1239-40W, on oil: reserves, what quantities of the 11.1 million tonnes of oil are stored in which countries. [266395]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: Under EU Council Directive 2006/67/EC, member states of the European Union (EU) can hold stocks of petroleum products on behalf of each other in order to meet their oil stocking obligation.

The UK has bilateral agreements with Belgium, Denmark, France, Ireland, the Netherlands, and Sweden where they can hold stocks on behalf of UK companies and UK companies can hold stocks on their behalf. The UK also has an agreement with New Zealand under which UK companies may hold stocks on behalf of the New Zealand Government.

Bilateral agreements are negotiated in advance for each calendar quarter. The following table shows the net stocks held under bilateral agreements between January to March 2009; This shows that of the 11.1 million tonnes of oil, 2.5 million are held overseas.

Net stocks held under bilateral agreements in Q1 2009

Country	Volume (million tonnes)
Belgium	0.215
Denmark	0.259
France	0.088
Ireland	-0.307
Netherlands	1.536
New-Zealand	-0.035
Sweden	0.745

Renewables Advisory Board

Greg Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what funding the Government expects to provide to the Renewables Advisory Board in each of the next five financial years. [266667]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The Department does not set budgets on a five-yearly basis.

The Renewables Advisory Board budget for 2009-10 is currently subject to the business planning round process in the Department.

Warm Front Scheme

Mr. Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change if he will make it his policy to extend the Warm Front Scheme to vulnerable households not in receipt of state benefits. [258923]

Joan Ruddock: The Department is currently looking closely at all aspects of the scheme including eligibility. Any alterations in the existing criteria will be announced in due course.

Written Questions: Government Responses

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change when he plans to answer Question 252857, tabled on 26 January 2009, on the letters of 19 November and 30 December 2008 from the hon. Member for Forest of Dean, on the Oakenhill opencast coal site. [258765]

Mr. Mike O'Brien *[holding answer 25 February 2009]:* I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave him on 18 March 2009, *Official Report*, column 1260W.

DUCHY OF LANCASTER

Central Office of Information: Complaints

Mr. Hurd: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how many complaints against Central Office of Information advertising have been upheld by the Advertising Standards Authority since 1997. [257524]

Mr. Byrne: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the Central Office of Information. I have asked the chief executive to reply.

Letter from Peter Buchanan, dated 16 March 2009:

As Acting Chief Executive of the Central Office of Information (COI), I have been asked to reply to your recent Parliamentary Question [257524] on complaints made to the ASA on COI advertising.

The Central Office of Information (COI) has had no complaint made or upheld against to date.

The COI work on advertising campaigns on behalf of other Government Departments.

Central Office of Information: Film

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how many public information films have been produced by the Central Office of Information in each year since 1997; and how much was spent on such films in each year. [258822]

Mr. Byrne: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the Central Office of Information. I have asked the chief executive to reply.

Letter from Peter Buchanan, dated 16 March 2009:

As Chief Executive of the Central Office of Information (COI), I have been asked to reply to your recent Parliamentary Question [258822] on how many public information films have been produced by the Central Office of Information in each year since 1997; and how much was spent on such films in each year.

The information requested is given in the table below.

Year	*Number*	*Budget (£)*
1997	24	n/a
1998	16	n/a
1999	23	n/a
2000	23	n/a
2001	20	n/a
2002	20	900,226.52
2003	27	1,308,038.30
2004	30	1,830,891.50
2005	8	297,273.93

Year	*Number*	*Budget (£)*
2006	4	165,265.27
2007	13	714,283.25
2008	26	1,439,706.50

Departmental Energy

Greg Clark: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster (1) what steps have been taken by *(a)* his Department, *(b)* its agency and *(c)* the Prime Minister's Office to improve the thermal efficiency of their buildings in the last 12 months; [266746]

(2) what recent progress his Department has made towards the Government's target of increasing its energy efficiency per square metre of the Government Estate by 15 per cent. by 2010, relative to 1999-2000 levels; and if he will make a statement. [266868]

Kevin Brennan: The Prime Minister's Office forms an integral part of the Cabinet Office.

The Cabinet Office is undertaking a number of measures to contribute to the Government's target of increasing its energy efficiency per square metre of the estate by 15 per cent. by 2010, relative to 1999-2000. There are also currently a number of projects underway to improve the thermal efficiency of the Department's buildings. These include the installation of secondary glazing and additional insulation into the roofs, attic spaces and the interior faces of external walls in a number of the Cabinet Office's principal buildings. These projects are currently ongoing and subject to future funding.

Departmental Public Expenditure

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how much capital spending the Cabinet Office plans to bring forward to *(a)* 2008-09 and *(b)* 2009-10. [266338]

Kevin Brennan: The Cabinet Office has no present plans to change any existing capital expenditure plans for 2008-09 and 2009-10.

Departmental Publications

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how many copies of the document Working together—Public services on your side have been printed; in which public service delivery outlets it will be available; which non-governmental organisations were consulted in preparation of the document; and what the printing costs for the document were. [264018]

Mr. Byrne: "Working Together: public services on your side" builds on engagement with non-governmental organisations since the publication of a Cabinet Office paper published last summer, "Excellence and Fairness: receiving world class public services". This engagement included discussions with representatives from trade unions, businesses, the third sector and professional associations.

1,800 copies of the paper have been printed. In addition, a dedicated website has been established that was visited by around 3,500 on the first day alone. A dedicated page has been established on Directgov setting out a summary of proposals for the public. Printed or electronic copies are being sent to leaders of major services. Copies can also be obtained from the Cabinet Office. The cost of printing was £7,609.

Economic Situation

Grant Shapps: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what *(a)* summits, *(b)* conferences and *(c)* seminars his Department has hosted since January 2008 at which a primary subject of discussion was the effect of the economic situation on matters within his Department's responsibility. [258861]

Mr. Byrne: Units within the Cabinet Office use conferences and other types of events as one of a number of ways of engaging with stakeholders to support a range of Cabinet Office policies and activities.

The Cabinet Office does not keep a central record of summits, conferences and seminars and to obtain this information would incur disproportionate costs.

Government Departments: Pay

Mr. Maude: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster (1) what the wage bill of each Government department was in *(a)* 1996-97 and *(b)* the most recent year for which figures are available; [258600]

(2) what the wage bill of each executive agency was in *(a)* 1996-97 and *(b)* the most recent year for which figures are available. [258601]

Yvette Cooper: I have been asked to reply.

Information on central government pay spending is published in Public Expenditure Statistical Analyses (PESA) 2008 at:

http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/d/pesa0809.

Information on individual agency paybills is not held centrally; agency paybills are included within the paybills of their parent departments.

Hospitality Received by Departmental Board Members

Mr. Maude: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster if he will place in the Library a copy of the Cabinet Office's *(a)* document entitled Hospitality Received by Departmental Board Members and *(b)* List of Ministers' financial interests. [249958]

Mr. Byrne: Copies of both documents can be found in the Library of the House or on the Cabinet Office website at:

www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/propriety_and_ethics/publications.aspx

and

www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/propriety_and_ethics/news.aspx

respectively.

News Distribution Service: Press Releases

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how many press releases the News Distribution Service has issued in each year since 1997. [258821]

Mr. Byrne: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the Central Office of Information. I have asked the chief executive to reply.

Letter from Peter Buchanan, dated 16 March 2009:

As Chief Executive of the Central Office of Information (COI), I have been asked to reply to your recent Parliamentary Question [258821] on numbers of News Distribution (NDS) press releases.

The Central Office of Information's News Distribution Service distributes press releases on behalf of the Departments and maintains a record of press releases since 1997 at:

http://nds.coi.gov.uk/search/default.asp.

Personal Income

Mr. Roger Williams: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what the average annual income of *(a)* an urban and *(b)* a rural household was in each region in each of the last three years; and if he will make a statement. [266451]

Kevin Brennan: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated March 2009:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question asking what the average annual income of (a) an urban and (b) a rural household was in each region in each of the last three years. (266451)

This information is not available from statistical surveys or administrative sources held centrally.

PR Week

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how many copies of *PR Week* are purchased each week by the Media Monitoring Unit. [258278]

Mr. Byrne: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the Central Office of Information. I have asked the chief executive to reply.

Letter from Peter Buchanan, dated 16 March 2009:

As Deputy Chief Executive of the Central Office of Information (COI), I have been asked to reply to your recent Parliamentary Question [258278] on how many copies of *PR Week* are purchased each week by the Media Monitoring Unit (MMU).

I can confirm that the MMU purchase one copy per week.

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Community Relations

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the written answer by Baroness Andrews of 9 March 2009, *Official Report, House of Lords*, WA212-13, on the Preventing Violent Extremism Pathfinder Fund, if her Department will adopt a policy requiring all local authorities that have received additional funding from it to prevent violent extremism through the non-ring-fenced area-based grant to report annually *(a)* to which community groups and individuals they have allocated funding and *(b)* on the work they have undertaken and how they plan to monitor its effectiveness. [266853]

Mr. Khan: Funding has been provided to local authorities through the area based grant—a non-ring fenced grant fund which allows local authorities to decide the most effective and efficient routes to invest their resources for the delivery of local priorities.

Authorities are measured on the outcomes they achieve using this funding through the national indicator set.

All authorities, including those who have received area-based grant funding in support of their work to prevent violent extremism, must therefore report to Government annually against national indicator 35, an indicator in the national indicator set which measures progress in building resilience to violent extremism. Work to prevent violent extremism is included in the comprehensive area assessment process, led by the Audit Commission, which assesses how well local services are working together to improve the quality of life for local people.

We continue to work closely with local authorities to deliver this agenda and the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government wrote to the Speaker of the House of Commons on 17 March, copied to the hon. Member for Wycombe (Mr. Goodman), agreeing to provide information about the groups that local authorities are working with.

Community Relations: Islam

Mark Pritchard: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if she will commission research into allegations of physical violence against people attending mosques in England and Wales. [262889]

Mr. Alan Campbell: I have been asked to reply.

The Government take all allegations of physical violence seriously. However there are currently no plans to commission work in this area.

Departmental Art Works

Mr. Vara: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government which works of art from the Government Art Collection each Minister in her Department has selected for display in a private office. [259440]

Mr. Khan: The works of art selected are as follows:

	Title
Right hon. Margaret Beckett	
Augustus John	"Nude Girl Standing with Both Arms Outstretched"
Augustus John	"Study of Female Nude Standing"
Augustus John	"Study of Female Nude Standing"
Augustus John	"Study of Female Nude Seated"
Augustus John	"Reclining Female Nude"
Right hon. John Healey	
Thomas Dobbin	"Down, Down"
Bob McClelland	"Harpurhey, Winter"
Glen Baxter	"Mr Unwin often gave me advice on how to distract the bowler"
Edward Bawden	"Coal Exchange"

	Title
John Thirsk	"Wainhouse Tower, Halifax, Yorkshire"
Zenon Zamojski	"Slum Clearance"
Baroness Andrews	
Edward Ardizzone	"The Boat to Greenwich"
Tam Mara	"Shot Silk"
Robert Tavener	"Downs and Water Meadows"
Robert Tavener	"Old Barn and Farm, Tenterden"
Iain Wright	
Jennifer Dickson	"Eve"
Bridget Riley	"Blaze IV"
George Balmer	"Hartlepool"
Alan Green	"Black over Red"
Fanchon Frohlich	"Zodiacal Stream"

Departmental Buildings

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what *(a)* grade II, *(b)* grade II* and *(c)* grade I listed buildings have been owned by her Department in each of the last three years. [266850]

Mr. Khan: Communities and Local Government has held responsibility for two freehold Grade II* listed buildings. They are Old Burlington House and New Burlington House situated in Piccadilly, London.

Departmental Public Appointments

Julia Goldsworthy: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government which former *(a)* hon. Members who left Parliament since 1997 and *(b)* Members of the House of Lords from each party have been appointed to positions on public bodies within her Department's responsibility; and who made each appointment. [266791]

Mr. Khan: This information is not held centrally. Information on board membership and remuneration is published in individual bodies' annual reports and accounts.

Departmental Recruitment

Justine Greening: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer of 9 February 2009, *Official Report*, column 1689W, on departmental recruitment, what estimate she has made of the annual salary cost of the new *(a)* permanent, *(b)* temporary and *(c)* agency staff recruited by her Department in each year since 2005-06. [264303]

Mr. Khan: The estimated annual salary cost of *(a)* permanent, *(b)* temporary and *(c)* agency staff recruited in each year since 2005-06 is as follow:

£

Staff Type	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*	*2008-09*	*Grand Total*
Permanent Staff	1,358,118	1,665,935	2,876,301	2,732,144	8,632,498
Short Term Contracts	815,913	876,215	894,944	1,222,423	3,809,495
Agency Staff	2,126,139	3,130,540	5,774,867	6,222,138	17,253,684
Grand Total	4,300,170	5,672,690	9,546,112	10,176,705	29,695,677

Digital Britain

Harry Cohen: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what estimate she has made of the level of affordability of individual access to broadband internet which will be achieved under the Digital Britain plan. [259642]

Mr. McFadden: I have been asked to reply.

This Department has made no specific estimate of the level of affordability of individual access to broadband internet which will be achieved under the Digital Britain plan.

Under Digital Britain, we will be looking at the costs and benefits while setting out our plans for the level of service which we believe should be universal under the Universal Service Commitment.

Currently, telcos and ISPs offer broadband packages with a range of options costing from under £20 a month at the lower end to over £40 a month at the higher end.

Empty Property

Margaret Moran: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many empty dwellings management orders have been enforced in each local authority area to date. [267144]

Mr. Iain Wright: To date, 22 Interim Empty Dwelling Management Orders (EDMOs) have been approved by the Residential Property Tribunal Service (RPTS) since the legislation came into effect in April 2006. However, local authorities claim that in many cases the threat of an EDMO has been sufficient to make owners take action to bring long-term empty homes back into use.

We are confident that the legislation is beginning to work well. We always intended that the legislation should be used only as a last resort where other measures have proved unsuccessful. We want to encourage voluntary re-occupation of empty homes but this can only work well where there is realistic compulsion to back them up. EDMOs provide this compulsion and should therefore be a key component of a comprehensive empty property strategy.

Local authority	*Number of interim EDMOs authorised*
London Borough of Bromley	1
Carlisle District Council	1
London Borough of Hammersmith And Fulham	1

Local authority	*Number of interim EDMOs authorised*
London Borough of Hounslow	2
London Borough of Lewisham	5
New Forest District Council	1
Norwich City Council	5
Peterborough City Council	2
South Norfolk District Council	1
Staffordshire Moorlands District Council	1
Swale Borough Council	1
Wychavon District Council	1
Total	22

Equity

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) what her Department's net spending on equity loan schemes in each region was in each of the last three years; [265071]

(2) what her Department's net spending on shared ownership schemes was in each region in each of the last three years. [265072]

Mr. Iain Wright: The following table shows spend through the housing corporation on shared equity and shared ownership over the previous three years by region.

Shared Equity spend by region

£ million

	2005-06	*2006-07*	*2007-08*
North East	0.10	0.00	0.32
North West	5.79	1.84	3.92
Yorkshire and Humberside	1.58	0.94	2.28
East Midlands	8.36	1.33	1.65
West Midlands	16.81	3.60	2.98
Eastern	38.69	8.61	12.65
London	164.09	44.63	21.72
South East	69.89	27.55	29.01
South West	8.51	2.78	9.01

Shared Ownership spend by region

£ million

	2005-06	*2006-07*	*2007-08*
North East	1.83	3.13	2.23
North West	18.37	18.38	16.85
Yorkshire and Humberside	3.87	9.54	11.03
East Midlands	14.01	16.76	20.85
West Midlands	10.01	16.97	20.35
Eastern	13.08	18.50	24.44
London	116.19	167.03	141.26
South East	40.42	56.42	59.00
South West	10.63	13.95	20.96

Fire Services

Mr. Dismore: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many road traffic accidents the Fire and Rescue Service attended in each *(a)* fire authority area and *(b)* region in each of the last three years. [266390]

Mr. Khan: The number of road traffic incidents attended by each Fire and Rescue Service for the last years are shown in the table:

Road traffic incidents attended by Fire and Rescue Services, England, 2005-06 to 2007-08

FRS area	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*
England	42,300	40,707	38,867
North East	1,725	1,667	1,615
Cleveland	500	460	453
County Durham and Darlington	440	451	454
Northumberland	202	260	307
Tyne and Wear	583	480	404
North West	4,537	3,891	3,410
Cheshire	805	721	600
Cumbria	398	360	339
Greater Manchester	1,247	1,092	992
Lancashire	923	816	637
Merseyside	1,088	902	760
Yorkshire and the Humber	3,710	3,660	3,527
Humberside	701	696	653
North Yorkshire	480	705	709
South Yorkshire	1,356	1,152	1,072
West Yorkshire	1,173	1,109	1,093
East Midlands	3,742	3,673	3,646
Derbyshire	717	707	770
Leicestershire	920	964	992
Lincolnshire	692	725	723
Northamptonshire	662	647	637
Nottinghamshire	743	753	736
West Midlands	5,110	4,886	4,923
Hereford and Worcester	745	747	930
Shropshire	357	336	366
Staffordshire	977	970	977
Warwickshire	631	613	609
West Midlands	2,400	2,220	2,103
East of England	5,555	5,304	5,464
Bedfordshire and Luton	476	439	482
Cambridgeshire	897	762	779
Essex	1,634	1,617	1,721
Hertfordshire	607	556	682
Norfolk	1,436	1,071	1,390
Suffolk	505	530	430
London	5,501	5,318	5,238
South East[1]	7,451	7,106	5,939
Buckinghamshire	627	605	620
East Sussex	738	731	727
Hampshire[1]	1,467	1,370	[illegible]
Isle of Wight	126	100	800
Kent	1,323	1,208	1,180
Oxfordshire	436	438	455
Royal Berkshire	638	660	611
Surrey	1,197	907	1,285
West Sussex	919	912	938

Road traffic incidents attended by Fire and Rescue Services, England, 2005-06 to 2007-08

FRS area	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08
South West	4,961	4,727	4,706
Avon	832	761	714
Cornwall	591	519	483
Devon[1]	1,140	1,126	—
Devon and Somerset[2]	—	—	1,645
Dorset	547	588	619
Gloucestershire	606	566	572
Somerset[1]	640	499	—
Wiltshire	635	690	660

[1] Data for 2007-08 not provided by Hampshire Fire and Rescue Service

[2] N/P

[3] Prior to 2007-08 Devon and Somerset existed as separate Fire and Rescue Services

Home Ownership Incentive Schemes

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many HomeBuy agents have taken part in the First Time Buyers Initiative; and if she will make a statement. [263669]

Margaret Beckett: All 23 of the current Government appointed HomeBuy agents have engaged with the First Time Buyers' initiative. The Government have appointed a single National HomeBuy Agent to administer and manage the post sales process. For example providing post sales advice to applicants, collection of fees etc.

Following a competitive tendering exercise to ensure continued high levels of service and value for money, the Homes and Communities Agency recently published a list of 15 organisations which will act as Local HomeBuy Agents across England from 1 April 2009. These HomeBuy agents will be required to engage with the First Time Buyers' initiative.

Homebuy Scheme

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) how many people have applied for assistance via the New Build HomeBuy scheme; how many applications have been granted; and what the average level of support has been; [269021]

(2) how many people have applied for assistance via the Rent to HomeBuy scheme; how many applications have been granted; and what the average level of support has been. [269022]

Margaret Beckett: Information on applications for the new build and rent to homebuy schemes is not held centrally. Applications are processed and monitored by homebuy agents (appointed housing associations).

Government support are provided in the form of grant funding from the Homes and Communities Agency's National Affordable Housing programme for the building of the homes. The average grant per unit for rent to homebuy allocations so far this year to end of February 2009 is £31,000 and for new build homebuy in the same period is £26,000.

Homes and Communities Agency

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many *(a)* people and *(b)* full-time equivalent staff members are employed by (i) the Tenants Service Authority and (ii) the Homes and Communities Agency. [266198]

Margaret Beckett: The numbers of staff currently employed by both the Tenants Service Authority (TSA) and the Homes and Communities Agency (HCA) as permanent staff and as full-time equivalent are shown in the following table.

	Permanent staff	*Full-time equivalent*
TSA	254	245
HCA	821	789

Housing

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many *(a)* homes and *(b)* households there were in each region in each year since 1997. [266477]

Mr. Iain Wright: Estimates of the total dwelling stock and households by region for 1997 to 2007 are given in the table.

A dwelling is defined, in line with the 2001 Census definition, as a self-contained unit of accommodation. Therefore a dwelling can consist of one self-contained household space or two or more non-self-contained household spaces at the same address. Total dwelling stock includes vacant dwellings and second homes.

Household estimates are derived from the Labour Force Survey. A household is defined as one person living alone or a group of people who have the accommodation as their only or main residence and (for a group) either share at least one meal a day or share living accommodation.

Thousand

At 31 March	*England*	*North East*	*North West*	*Yorks and the Humber*	*East Midlands*	*West Midlands*	*East*	*London*	*South East*	*South West*
Dwelling stock										
1997	20,622	1,100	2,890	2,105	1,732	2,170	2,227	3,026	3,280	2,093
1998	20,770	1,104	2,905	2,120	1,748	2,183	2,249	3,041	3,310	2,117
1999	20,927	1,108	2,920	2,132	1,764	2,197	2,270	3,059	3,338	2,139
2000	21,075	1,112	2,934	2,146	1,782	2,211	2,290	3,074	3,366	2,161
2001	21,207	1,115	2,945	2,155	1,797	2,225	2,308	3,090	3,392	2,181
2002	21,337	1,118	2,955	2,165	1,812	2,236	2,326	3,106	3,417	2,203
2003	21,481	1,122	2,970	2,176	1,828	2,248	2,346	3,124	3,443	2,225
2004	21,636	1,126	2,989	2,189	1,842	2,258	2,367	3,146	3,471	2,247

Thousand

At 31 March	*England*	*North East*	*North West*	*Yorks and the Humber*	*East Midlands*	*West Midlands*	*East*	*London*	*South East*	*South West*
2005	21,805	1,131	3,007	2,202	1,860	2,274	2,389	3,168	3,503	2,270
2006	21,990	1,137	3,027	2,218	1,880	2,293	2,414	3,192	3,536	2,292
2007	22,189	1,144	3,050	2,237	1,902	2,309	2,438	3,220	3,571	2,317
Households										
1997	19,877	1,072	2,772	2,032	1,687	2,117	2,161	2,850	3,196	1,989
1998	20,028	1,085	2,787	2,049	1,697	2,162	2,165	2,866	3,217	2,000
1999	20,163	1,065	2,782	2,076	1,699	2,143	2,201	2,893	3,252	2,052
2000	20,320	1,075	2,800	2,091	1,737	2,146	2,236	2,921	3,270	2,043
2001	20,403	1,080	2,799	2,110	1,729	2,130	2,247	2,959	3,267	2,083
2002	20,662	1,096	2,828	2,135	1,742	2,176	2,251	2,964	3,345	2,125
2003	20,739	1,099	2,798	2,137	1,762	2,179	2,256	2,966	3,412	2,130
2004	20,758	1,108	2,830	2,172	1,788	2,154	2,271	2,945	3,364	2,126
2005	20,932	1,103	2,840	2,169	1,775	2,170	2,310	2,972	3,443	2,151
2006	21,092	1,114	2,877	2,181	1,832	2,165	2,345	2,966	3,436	2,177
2007	21,178	1,107	2,912	2,204	1,858	2,211	2,327	2,953	3,423	2,184

Sources:

1. Dwelling stock—Census 2001; Housing Flows Reconciliation and joint returns by local authorities; Housing Strategy Statistical Appendix (HSSA) submitted to Communities and Local Government by local authorities; Regulatory Statistical Return (RSR) as reported to the Housing Corporation by registered social landlords; Labour Force Survey.
2. Households—Labour Force Survey.

Housing Associations

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many long-term empty domestic properties have been taken over by housing associations in England since 2000. [266906]

Mr. Iain Wright: This information is not held centrally.

Housing Associations: Finance

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what recent assessment her Department has made of the borrowing conditions experienced by housing associations. [266492]

Mr. Iain Wright: In January 2009, the Tenant Services Authority carried out a quarterly survey of housing associations to understand their exposure to the finance and housing markets. The TSA found that the housing association sector overall is demonstrating resilience and can help meet the unprecedented demand for affordable homes for rent.

The full document is available at:

http://www.tenantservicesauthority.org/server/show/ConWebDoc.17399/changeNav/13640

In summary the position in relation to private finance is:

> The sector continues to enjoy good access to finance with £5.0 billion of the £5.3 billion debt needed over the next 12 months already in place
>
> In total the sector has undrawn facilities of £14.6 billion and reports that it has sufficient security in place to enable access to this debt

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what recent estimate she has made of the level of borrowing by housing associations in order to finance the building of new homes. [266499]

Mr. Iain Wright: The most recent information we have regarding association borrowing is from the Tenant Services Authority's January survey of housing associations. In total, the sector has facilities of £51.6 billion arranged and with drawn debt of £37.0 billion. The sector estimates that it needs £5.3 billion of debt to meet its commitments over the next 12 months including the delivery of new development. £5 billion of this debt is already arranged.

A copy of the TSA survey of housing associations can be found on their website at:

http://www.tenantservicesauthority.org/server/show/ConWebDoc.17399/changeNav/13640

Housing Market

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many *(a)* Ministers, *(b)* special advisers, *(c)* full-time equivalent departmental staff and *(d)* others were responsible for her Department's Objective 4 to deliver a better balance between housing supply and demand in each of the last five years. [265077]

Mr. Iain Wright: The average number of staff employed by my Department in delivering objective 4 was as follows.

	Permanent staff	*Ministers*	*Special advisers*	*Others*	*Total*
2003-04[1]	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	929
2004-05	796	1.1	0.6	92	889.7
2005-06	598	1	1	124	724
2006-07	667	1	1	35	704
2007-08	460	1	1	44	506

[1] As objective was created during SR04 spending review there are no breakdown figures for 2003-04

Housing: Construction

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what recent estimate she has made of the number of new domestic properties which will be *(a)* started and *(b)* completed in each of the next three years; and what proportion she expects to be affordable homes. [265323]

Mr. Iain Wright: Estimates have not been made by the Government of the number of new domestic properties which will be started and completed in each of the next three years, or on what proportion is expected to be affordable homes. The proportion of affordable homes in an area is a matter for local authorities, taking into account local affordability pressures.

Our aim is to provide 70,000 affordable homes, of which 45,000 would be for social rent in each year at the end of this spending review period (2010-11).

To help increase the supply of housing we have provided £8.4 billion to the Homes and Communities Agency's Affordable Housing Programme for the period 2008-11.

The Government recognise that the current financial and economic conditions will make the achievement of new supply extremely challenging, but we are committed to doing all we can to meet long-term demand and need for housing.

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many homes were *(a)* started and *(b)* completed by (i) local authorities, (ii) housing associations and (iii) private builders in each year since 1997. [266483]

Mr. Iain Wright: The following table shows the number of annual, permanent dwelling, house building starts and completions by tenure, in England from 1997-98 to 2007-08.

Annual, permanent dwelling, house building starts and completions by tenure, in England from 1997-98 to 2007-08

	Starts			*Completions*		
	Private enterprise	*Registered social landlords*	*Local authorities*	*Private enterprise*	*Registered social landlords*	*Local authorities*
1997-98	127,830	19,630	260	121,350	27,890	320
1998-99	121,200	17,550	130	113,720	26,360	180
1999-2000	124,470	15,940	150	119,480	22,260	60
2000-01	116,650	12,840	210	113,520	19,560	180
2001-02	115,700	11,060	120	110,260	19,550	60
2002-03	124,460	10,910	160	118,620	18,920	200
2003-04	130,090	12,350	280	123,190	20,580	190
2004-05	139,130	14,390	210	131,710	23,580	100
2005-06	144,940	17,230	250	134,430	28,470	300
2006-07	145,690	16,850	200	136,660	30,690	250
2007-08	143,590	15,750	250	128,190	38,410	310

Source:
RSL completions: Homes and Communities Agency Investment Management System (IMS). All others new build starts and completions: P2 quarterly returns submitted by local authorities and the National House-Building Council (NHBC) to CLG

Housing: Finance

Margaret Moran: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government when she plans to publish the outcomes of her Department's review of finance for housing. [267145]

Mr. Iain Wright: The evidence gathering phase of the review is now complete and proposals for a new or improved system are being developed. The review will report to Ministers in the spring. We have said that we will hold a formal consultation once the review has concluded.

Housing: Low Incomes

Justine Greening: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much her Department has allocated for affordable housing by *(a)* region and (ii) London borough in the next three years. [266655]

Mr. Iain Wright: In England, over the three years 2008-11, we are investing over £8 billion in affordable housing through the Homes and Communities Agency (HCA). The following allocations to the Affordable Housing Programme (AHP) reflect regional assemblies recommendations and funding brought forward from 2010-11. These figures are indicative only to allow flexibility within the AHP to deliver the overall programme.

Indicative regional allocations of Affordable Housing Programme

Region	*2009-10*	*2010-11*
North East	76.4	50.6
Yorkshire and Humber	148.2	100.0
East Midlands	146.1	95.7
East of England	337.5	219.0
London	1,487.5	990.4
South East	579.2	399.2
South West	339.8	217.3
West Midlands	213.6	154.1
North West	243.1	166.2
Total	3,571.3	2,392.5

Future levels of funds available for affordable housing beyond 2010-11 will be dependent upon the next spending review.

Indicative allocations are not made to local authority level.

Housing: Prices

Mr. Gordon Prentice: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what assessment she has made of the effects of the publication of local crime maps on trends in *(a)* house prices and *(b)* home insurance premiums. [267154]

Mr. Iain Wright: Communities and local government have made no assessment of the impact of the publication of crime maps on *(a)* house prices and *(b)* home insurance premiums.

Housing: Standards

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much was spent by her Department on the English House Condition Survey in each of the last five years. [266482]

Mr. Iain Wright: The Department's expenditure on the English House Condition Survey in each of the last five financial years was:

	£ million
2003-04	3.7
2004-05	4.1
2005-06	3.6
2006-07	4.4
2007-08	3.4

Costs include VAT where appropriate. Variations between years are mainly due to accounting arrangements and do not reflect any significant changes in the running costs of the survey.

The English House Condition Survey (EHCS) was run five-yearly from 1971 to 2001 and then continuously from 2002 to 2007, based on a random sample across all tenures of around 8,000 dwellings a year. An initial household interview was followed by an inspection of the home by a professional surveyor to provide objective and consistent measures of housing standards and energy performance. Further components were an independent market value survey and a follow-up survey of private sector landlords.

The survey provides Government with an essential source of information on the changing condition and energy performance of the housing stock.

In 2008, this survey and the Department's Survey of English Housing were merged to form the English Housing Survey. The new survey brings together the key features of both previous surveys.

Further information about the EHCS, including annual reports, can be found at:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/ehcs

Local Government Finance

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what formula is used to calculate social housing grant payments to local authorities; and what changes have been made to that formula in each of the last three years. [266471]

Mr. Iain Wright: We have announced that local authorities will be invited to bid for social housing grant in future, alongside arm's length management organisations, registered social landlords and private developers. The Homes and Communities Agency allocates grant through a competitive bidding process in which all schemes are assessed against a single set of criteria. The criteria are set out in a prospectus published by the agency; a new prospectus is issued for each bidding period and sets out the criteria for that period. The criteria for 2008-09 are set out in the prospectus for the 2008-11 Affordable Housing Programme, and the criteria for the previous period are set out in the prospectus for the Affordable Housing Programme for 2006-08. The current prospectus is available on the Homes and Communities Agency website. The previous prospectus is available on the website of the Housing Corporation, the now closed body which was formerly responsible for running the affordable housing programme.

Local Government: Pensions

Paddy Tipping: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what steps she has taken to ensure that assets of funds maintained by administering authorities for the purposes of the Local Government Pension Scheme are invested in a manner *(a)* appropriate to expect future demands, *(b)* which minimises risk and *(c)* consistent with provisions of European Council Directive 2003/41/EC on derivatives. [266097]

John Healey: The relevant sections of Article 18 of the European Council Directive 2003/41/EC is implemented by the Occupational Pension Scheme (Investment) Regulations 2005 (SI 2005 No 3378) made under powers in Sections 244 and 245 of the Pensions Act 2004. However, those regulations apply solely to investments made in relation to trust-based schemes and do not apply to statutory schemes, such as the Local Government Pension Scheme which is subject to its own specific provisions made under Section 7 of the Superannuation Act 1972.

In making investment decisions, scheme pension fund authorities must comply with the Local Government Pension Scheme (Management and Investment of Funds) Regulations 1998 (as amended), which impose on them the need to have proper regard to risk, diversification and the need to act prudently, having taken expert advice.

As part of the Funding Strategy Statements that individual pension fund authorities in England and Wales are required to publish they must consider also the liabilities of their funds in determining their funding position and assess the risks of adopting different local investment strategies.

Paddy Tipping: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if she will provide the European Commission with an implementation report of how the law applicable to the Local Government Pension Scheme complies with the provisions of the Activities and Supervision of Institutions for Occupational Retirement Provision Directive in accordance with Article 22(2) of Council Directive 2003/41/EC. [266098]

John Healey: Responsibility for the implementation of European Council Directive 2003/41/EC or for reporting any matters regarding its transposition to the European Commission rests with my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions. My responsibility extends to ensuring that the Local Government Pension Scheme in England and Wales complies with any occupational pension scheme legislation made as a consequence of the directive's implementation.

Paddy Tipping: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) whether the Local Government Pension Scheme is an institution for occupational retirement provision under Article 6 of Council Directive 2003/41/EC; [266099]

(2) whether the funds maintained by administering authorities for the purposes of the Local Government Pension Scheme are institutions for occupational retirement provision under Article 6 of Council Directive 2003/41/EC. [266100]

John Healey: The Local Government Pension Scheme in England and Wales and its individual funds fall within the definition of an institution for occupational retirement provision for the purposes of Article 6.

Paddy Tipping: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government for what reasons it was decided to exempt the Local Government Pension Scheme from the provisions of Articles 9 to 17 of Council Directive 2003/41/EC. [266101]

John Healey: In exercising the power conferred on member states under Article 5 of the directive, the Government decided that statutory schemes with a guarantee from a public authority were to be exempt from the legislation which implemented Articles 9 to 17.

Paddy Tipping: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what steps she has taken to ensure that funds maintained by administering authorities for the purposes of the Local Government Pension Scheme are legally separated from the administering authorities, in accordance with Article 8 of Council Directive 2003/41/EC. [266102]

John Healey: The legal separation referred to in Article 8 is intended to ensure that the assets of a pension scheme like the Local Government Pension Scheme are safeguarded and pension benefits protected for scheme beneficiaries in the event of the sponsoring employer being declared bankrupt. In the case of the Local Government Pension Scheme, pension benefits are guaranteed by statute and would be paid whenever entitlement arose regardless of the solvency of individual participating employers.

It was on this basis that the scheme was exempt from the Government's legislation introduced in 2005 to transpose Article 8.

Paddy Tipping: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what steps she has taken to ensure that the assets of funds maintained by administering authorities for the purposes of the Local Government Pension Scheme are invested in the best interests of the scheme members, in accordance with Article 18 of Council Directive 2003/41/EC. [266103]

John Healey: The Government take the view that the Local Government Pension Scheme is compliant with Article 18 of European Council Directive 2003/41/EC. However, draft proposals are currently the subject of a statutory consultation exercise about a change in the scheme's investment regulations to clarify the duty of care owed by elected members of scheme pension fund investment committees to beneficiaries, to participating employers and to taxpayers.

Mobile Homes

Dr. Richard Taylor: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if she will undertake a review of planning law relating to caravan parks, mobile homes and chalets; and if she will make a statement. [264840]

Mr. Iain Wright: We have no plans to undertake a review of the planning law governing caravan parks, mobile homes and chalets.

Mortgages: Government Assistance

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what estimate she has made of the number of people who will receive assistance under the Mortgage Rescue Scheme in the next 12 months. [266315]

Margaret Beckett: The £200 million Government Mortgage Rescue Scheme has been operational across the country since 1 January 2009, following "fast tracking" by up to 80 local authorities in December 2008.

The scheme aims to support up to 6,000 of the most vulnerable households in England at risk of repossession over the next two years.

The Government have not published any estimates of the number of households it expects to benefit from the scheme in its first year. The scheme is demand-led, with the number of vulnerable households benefiting from the scheme dependent on the number of eligible households approaching their local authority for assistance.

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what regulatory impact assessment has been made of the *(a)* Homeowner Mortgage Support Scheme and *(b)* Mortgage Rescue Scheme. [266322]

Margaret Beckett: We are finalising arrangements for opening the Homeowners Mortgage Support Scheme with the first lenders and will publish an impact assessment when the scheme is launched in April.

The impact assessment for the Mortgage Rescue Scheme was published on 16 September and is available at:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/housing/homeownerssupportpackage

Non-domestic Rates: Small Businesses

Mr. Cawsey: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if she will assess the merits of making the small business rate relief scheme automatic. [265935]

John Healey: In light of the economic downturn, the Government are sympathetic to the aim of helping smaller businesses. However, without the application it would be difficult for the local authority to establish whether a ratepayer occupies more than one property. This is a condition of entitlement to the small business rate relief scheme, particularly if that property is located outside of the billing area in which relief is being claimed. Those ratepayers certifying that they meet the given criteria do receive the relief.

Mr. Cawsey: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what her most recent estimate is of the number of businesses in each local authority area which have received rate relief in each year since 2005. [265937]

John Healey: The latest reliable information on the number of businesses claiming rate relief is that, at 31 December 2006, local authorities reported that there were 392,000 businesses claiming small business rate relief.

Data on the number of businesses who receive rate relief as at 31 December 2008 are currently being collected and will be available later this year. This will include the number of businesses receiving the various mandatory and discretionary reliefs and small business rate relief but not transitional relief.

Planning Permission

Mr. Burstow: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what representations she has received on planning applications being considered by planning inspectors in the last 12 months; and if she will make a statement. [266442]

Mr. Iain Wright: This information could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

The Department and the Planning Inspectorate receive a wide range of representations each year in relation to appeals and called-in applications which are before planning inspectors.

Property Transfer

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government which local authorities have transferred *(a)* all and *(b)* part of their housing stock to housing associations. [266147]

Mr. Iain Wright: Tables listing those local authorities who have transferred all and or part of their housing stock to registered social landlords have been placed in the Library.

Rented Housing

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what proportion of all homes were *(a)* housing association-owned, *(b)* local authority-owned, *(c)* owner-occupied and *(d)* privately rented in each year since 1997. [266475]

Mr. Iain Wright: The following table shows the dwelling stock in England owned by registered social landlords, owned by local authorities, owner-occupied and privately rented as a proportion of the estimated total dwelling stock in each year since 1997.

	Percentage				
As at 31 March	*Registered social landlords*	*Local authority*	*Owner-occupied*	*Private rented*	*All dwellings (thousand)*
1997	5	16	68	10	20,622
1998	5	16	69	10	20,778
1999	5	15	69	10	20,927
2000	6	14	70	10	21,075
2001	7	13	70	10	21,207
2002	7	13	70	10	21,337
2003	8	11	70	11	21,481
2004	8	11	70	11	21,636
2005	8	10	70	12	21,805
2006	8	9	70	12	21,990
2007	8	9	70	[illegible]	22,189

Source:

Census 2001; Housing Flows Reconciliation and joint returns by local authorities; Housing Strategy Statistical Appendix (HSSA) submitted to Communities and Local Government by local authorities; Regulatory Statistical Return (RSR) as reported to the Housing Corporation by registered social landlords; Labour Force Survey.

Social Rented Housing

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government with reference to her Department's press notice of 2 September 2008 entitled Ensuring a fair housing market for all, how many of the planned 5,500 new social rented homes have been *(a)* built and *(b)* occupied to date. [266396]

Mr. Iain Wright: On 2 September 2008, we announced that £400 million would be brought forward to deliver 5,500 more social rented homes. Of this £100 million has been made available in 2008-09 and £300 million in 2009-10. On average it takes around 12 months to build out most schemes, so it is too early for any to have been completed and occupied.

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many homes for social rent were built *(a)* by local authorities, *(b)* by housing associations and *(c)* privately in each year since 1997. [266480]

Mr. Iain Wright: Social rent new build figures are collated from the Homes and Communities Agency Investment Management System (IMS), Housing Strategy Statistical Appendix (HSSA) returns and P2 house building returns submitted to CLG by local authorities and the National House-Building Council (NHBC).

The following table shows the number of affordable homes built in England each year, by tenure, according to who took ownership of the home and then provided it for social rent.

	Registered social landlords	*Local authorities*	*Tenure not known*	*Total*
1997-98	23,690	320	0	24,020
1998-99	22,430	180	10	22,620
1999-2000	19,520	60	40	19,610
2000-01	17,300	180	750	18,230
2001-02	17,510	60	1,070	18,640
2002-03	16,590	200	720	17,510
2003-04	16,600	190	1,580	18,370
2004-05	17,410	100	1,270	18,790
2005-06	18,560	300	1,660	20,510
2006-07	19,160	250	2,090	21,500
2007-08	23,210	310	1,860	25,390

Not all social rented housing is provided through new build completions, supply can also come from the acquisition and refurbishment of private sector homes. In 2007-08, an additional 3,980 social rented homes were supplied through acquisitions which are not included in the figure above.

The CLG figures on affordable housing reflect who provided homes for social rent, rather than who built the homes.

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether she plans to revise the Government's targets for *(a)* new social rented housing and *(b)* new homes. [265089]

Mr. Iain Wright: The Housing Green Paper, "Homes for the Future: more affordable, more sustainable", published in July 2007, set out the Government's ambition to increase housing supply.

The Government recognise that the current financial and economic conditions will make the achievement of substantially increased housing supply extremely challenging. We remain committed to doing all we can to meet long-term demand and need for housing.

To help achieve our commitment we have brought forward investment, of £550 million, and have been exploring with the Homes and Communities Agency new ways of securing new homes for social rent and affordable housing.

Tenant Services Authority

Margaret Moran: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what recent discussions she has had with the Tenant Services Authority on its charging policy in respect of mobile consultations with tenants' associations. [267059]

Mr. Iain Wright: There have been no discussions with the Tenant Services Authority because they do not have a charging policy in respect of mobile consultations with tenants.

Margaret Moran: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many tenants *(a)* took part in the Tenant Services Authority's (TSA) National Conversation and *(b)* visited the TSA's camper van. [267147]

Margaret Beckett: The total number of tenants who participated in *(a)* the Tenant Services Authority's national conversation and *(b)* visited the TSA's camper van is currently unavailable. These figures are currently being analysed and the results will form part of a report which the TSA will publish in early summer.

Written Answers to Questions

Friday 27 March 2009

SOLICITOR-GENERAL

Prosecutions

Mr. Burrowes: To ask the Solicitor-General how much the Crown Prosecution Service has spent to keep victims informed of prosecution decisions since 2002. [267421]

The Solicitor-General: The Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) keeps victims informed of prosecution decisions by writing to victims when key decisions are taken, by meeting victims in serious cases, and through the work of Witness Care Units (WCU), which provide information and support to victims and other witnesses. Detailed information on the costs of these activities is not available. A comprehensive review of the resources dedicated to victim and witness care is to take place in 2009-10.

HOUSE OF COMMONS COMMISSION

Members: Allowances

Andrew Selous: To ask the hon. Member for North Devon, representing the House of Commons Commission how much it cost to process hon. Members' applications for expenses in the last year for which figures are available. [267419]

Nick Harvey: The direct staff cost of processing hon. Members' claims is forecast to be some £1.2 million for 2008-09. This does not include IT or accommodation costs which cannot be disaggregated to this level.

Parliament: Visits

Geraldine Smith: To ask the hon. Member for North Devon, representing the House of Commons Commission what the maximum number of tours of Parliament organised through the central tours office is that may take place on each day from Monday to Friday during sitting periods. [267237]

Nick Harvey: During sitting periods the number of tour slots each day is as follows:

Mondays, 38

Tuesdays, 38

Wednesdays, 38 (15 full tours, 23 Lords end only)

Thursdays, 0

Fridays, sitting (either House) 24, Non sitting 92

Geraldine Smith: To ask the hon. Member for North Devon, representing the House of Commons Commission which individuals have booked tours of Parliament through the central tours office in the last four weeks. [267238]

Nick Harvey: Information can be provided on the categories of individuals sponsoring tours. To maximise capacity, small groups can sometimes be combined, thus accommodating additional groups. Therefore the total number of tour groups accommodated usually exceeds the number of slots available, as illustrated:

Bookings made, by sponsor, for the period 2 March to 31 March inclusive

	Number of tour slots	Small group additions to tours	Total number of groups accommodated	
			Number	Percentage
Members of House of Commons	591	440	1,031	91
Members of House of Lords	43	13	56	5
Officers of either House	17	10	27	2
Central Tours Office	10	1	11	1
Staff of either House	7	4	11	1
Total	668	468	1,136	100

Geraldine Smith: To ask the hon. Member for North Devon, representing the House of Commons Commission how much advance notice is required to book a tour of Parliament through the central tours office. [267239]

Nick Harvey: On the first working day of each new month, booking opens for the month six months ahead, e.g. on 1 April the spreadsheet for October will be opened. Slots within a new month are usually booked close to capacity within two to three weeks of that month becoming available.

Geraldine Smith: To ask the hon. Member for North Devon, representing the House of Commons Commission which categories of people are able to book tours of Parliament through the central tours office. [267240]

Nick Harvey: The following categories of people are able to book tours:

Members and Officers of both Houses

Permanent staff of either House for work purposes (expressed in the regulations as "where there is a clear business need, i.e. not for personal guests")

Central Tours Office—if the group is clearly one which Parliament would wish to host, such as direct requests from ministries, overseas parliamentarians, civil service training.

SCOTLAND

China

Mr. MacNeil: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what the objectives are of his forthcoming visit to China. [267011]

Ann McKechin: To support Scottish Council for Development and Industry members in winning business in this growing economy.

Mr. MacNeil: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what discussions he has had with Ministerial colleagues in the Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform on the objectives of his forthcoming visit to China. [267012]

Ann McKechin: My right hon. Friend has had discussions with various colleagues about his visit to China and UKTI have been closely involved in its planning and support in China.

Mr. MacNeil: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland when his decision to join the Scottish Council for Development and Industry's trade delegation to China was taken. [267013]

Ann McKechin: Discussions have been ongoing with SCDI on support to their overseas trade delegations. Earlier this year they asked my right hon. Friend to lead their delegation to China.

Mr. MacNeil: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland on which date his travel to and from China as part of the Scottish Council for Development and Industry's trade delegation was booked. [267014]

Ann McKechin: Ministerial travel is booked at the appropriate time having regard to the visit itinerary and other diary commitments.

Mr. MacNeil: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland how many *(a)* officials and *(b)* special advisers will accompany him on his forthcoming visit to China; and what budget has been allocated for the visit. [267019]

Ann McKechin: Two civil servants and one special adviser. Funding for the visit has been allocated from the budget of the Scotland Office in the normal way to support my right hon. Friend's responsibilities.

Mr. MacNeil: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what representations he received from the Scottish Council for Development and Industry on joining its forthcoming trade delegation to China. [267020]

Ann McKechin: SCDI requested that my right hon. Friend lead their trade mission to China.

Christmas

Mr. Rob Wilson: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland whether it is his Department's policy to offer staff *(a)* additional leave entitlement for Christmas shopping and *(b)* Christmas bonus payments. [262805]

Ann McKechin: Staff in the Scotland Office are seconded from the Scottish Executive or the Ministry of Justice and the Office follows the policies of the parent Departments regarding leave entitlements and bonus arrangements.

Departmental Detergents

Annette Brooke: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland if he will make it his policy to ensure that no cleaning products or ingredients of cleaning products used by his Department have been tested on animals. [261120]

Ann McKechin: The Scotland Office obtains its cleaning services through central procurement contracts set up by the Scottish Executive or the Ministry of Justice. As part of the procurement process, any specific requirements for using ethically sourced cleaning products would be for the Executive or the Ministry of Justice to consider.

Departmental Disciplinary Proceedings

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland how many staff in his Department *(a)* were disciplined and *(b)* had their employment terminated as a result of a poor sickness record in each of the last 12 months. [262230]

Ann McKechin: No staff were disciplined or had their employment terminated as a result of a poor sickness record in the last 12 months.

Departmental Surveys

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland pursuant to the Answer of 9 March 2009, *Official Report*, column 3W, on departmental surveys, if he will place in the Library a copy of the results of the staff survey undertaken by his Department in 2007. [263358]

Ann McKechin: A copy of the Scotland Office staff survey published in 2007 has been placed in the Library of the House.

Departmental Training

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland how many training courses civil servants in his Department undertook in each of the last three years; and what the cost of such training was in each year. [266266]

Ann McKechin: The Scotland Office encourages all staff to undertake learning and development activities. The majority of opportunities are provided through the Scottish Executive and the Ministry of Justice at no direct cost to the Office; but where the training need is still not available within central Government, external training courses may be considered.

The Office incurred the following direct expenditure:

	£
2005-06	13,370
2006-07	13,969
2007-08	14,041

The Office does not maintain a central record of all training courses attended by staff.

Olympic Games 2012

Mr. Carmichael: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what recent discussions he has had with the First Minister on Scotland's involvement in the London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games; and if he will make a statement. [265520]

Ann McKechin: The Secretary of State has not had any recent discussions with the First Minister on Scotland's involvement in the London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games.

In the last couple of months I have met separately with Tessa Jowell, Minister for the Olympics and John Armitt, Chair of the Olympic Delivery Authority to discuss how Scotland can contribute to a successful Olympic and Paralympic Games.

BUSINESS, ENTERPRISE AND REGULATORY REFORM

Business: Crime

Tom Brake: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what recent discussions his Department has had with organisations representing business on *(a)* business crime and *(b)* recording business crimes separately. [247125]

Ian Pearson: Government policy to tackle crime against business, including whether such crime should be recorded separately is overseen by the Home Office. This Department works with the Home Office to inform the policy. BERR is represented on the joint Government/Industry National Retail Crime Steering Group (NRCSG). Officials have had conversations in partnership with the Home Office with a number of national and sector-specific trade bodies.

Business: Government Assistance

Simon Hughes: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what steps his Department takes to ensure the co-ordination of its support for business with that provided by local councils and chambers of commerce. [255509]

Ian Pearson *[holding answer 9 February 2009]:* In order to strengthen co-ordination of business support, we have introduced 'Solutions for Business'—a streamlined portfolio of publicly funded support products. This has been delivered through the Business Support Simplification Programme (BSSP). The BSSP has been overseen by a board which includes the Local Government Association, business representative bodies, a range of Government Departments and regional development agencies (RDAs). This Department and the RDAs have worked very closely with local authorities and business groups to deliver this streamlined, co-ordinated offer to businesses.

The RDAs deliver this Department's business support and co-ordinate efforts to help business, bringing together regional and local partners, including local authorities and Chambers of Commerce, and the private sector. They also manage Business Link, the access route to all forms of business and skills support, including 'Solutions for Business'. In each region Business Link works with local authorities and business representative groups, including Chambers of Commerce.

Heathrow Airport

Justine Greening: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what *(a)* meetings and *(b)* correspondence on Heathrow expansion which (i) he, (ii) other Ministers in his Department and (iii) officials in his Department have had with representatives from (A) BAA, (B) trades unions, (C) airlines using Heathrow, (D) other corporate bodies and (E) residents from communities affected by Heathrow expansion since 3 October 2008; when each meeting took place; who attended each meeting; and what the subject of each meeting was. [252766]

Ian Pearson *[holding answer 29 January 2009]:* Ministers and officials within the Department for Business Enterprise and Regulatory Reform have not held meetings specifically on Heathrow expansion. However, they have held a number of meetings with business organisations where Heathrow was discussed as part of a broader conversation.

In addition, between 3 October 2008 and 26 January 2009, the Department for Business Enterprise and Regulatory Reform received correspondence about Heathrow airport from local residents, businesses and business organisations. This included a letter from the chief executive of BAA on 3 October 2008 to Lord Mandelson.

JUSTICE

Bail Accommodation and Support Service

Mr. Garnier: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) when he expects the protocol governing the consultation process between Clearsprings Management Limited and local authorities with regard to its bail accommodation and support service accommodation to be completed; and when he will publish it; [267294]

(2) from which local authorities his Department has received complaints regarding the consultation process used by Clearsprings Management for the selection of properties for its bail accommodation and support service. [267295]

Mr. Hanson: I expect a joint working protocol for use between local authorities and ClearSprings to be finalised and available in April, subject to agreement by the Local Government Association.

ClearSprings operate in 76 local authority areas and 10 London boroughs. No authorities have formally written but letters raising specific points of concern have been received by the Ministry of Justice from individual ward councillors in Enfield, Haringey, Lewisham, Middlesbrough, Pontypridd, St. Helens and Stockton-on-Tees and have been addressed. Local authorities recognise the value and need for accommodation and support in the community for those on bail and home detention curfew.

Latchmere House Prison

Susan Kramer: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what recent assessment he has made of the *(a)* need for and *(b)* timing of the installation of in-cell electricity in the residential blocks of HM Prison Latchmere House. [266354]

Mr. Hanson: In-cell electricity is being developed and work is programmed to begin on site in February 2010 and be completed around September 2010. Work to replace alarms will be included in the project.

Political Parties: Finance

Andrew Miller: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice if he will bring forward proposals to change the regulatory system for donating to political parties to encourage smaller donations from a wider range of individuals. [267287]

Mr. Wills: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave to the hon. Member for Ribble Valley (Mr. Evans) on 2 March 2009, *Official Report*, column 1259W.

There are no such plans. The Government believe it is for political parties to decide how to conduct their fundraising activities within the legislative framework. One potential option to change the legislative framework would be to introduce a cap on the level of permissible donations, and an associated increase in the amount of public funding available to parties. This option was put to the major political parties following the review conducted by Sir Hayden Phillips in 2007. However, the inter-party talks that followed that review did not result in agreement to proceed with the wider package of reforms that Sir Hayden recommended to the party funding legislation.

The Government's White Paper, 'Party finance and expenditure in the United Kingdom' (CM7329) considered the issues of donation caps and public funding in considerable detail. The Government believe that any arrangements for increased public funding and associated cap on donations would need to be considered carefully as part of a wider public debate. There would need to be clear support from both the public and political parties before such steps could be taken. It is not clear that such a broad consensus of support currently exists. However, the Government stand ready to continue that debate.

Prisons: Bullying

Mr. Garnier: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what protocols and procedures are in operation within prisons to prevent persistent bullying. [267264]

Mr. Hanson: Ministers, the National Offender Management Service and the Prison Officers' Association are collectively committed to ensuring that violence in prisons is not tolerated in any form and since 2004, a national strategy has directed every public sector prison to have in place a local violence reduction strategy. Since 2007 this has been applied to the contracted out estate. Under the national strategy, prisons are instructed to implement a local violence reduction strategy aimed at dealing with all forms of violence in their establishment. Strategies based on reducing violence rather than focusing specifically on bullying help to ensure a more holistic approach to antisocial behaviour that recognises the complexities of managing violence in prisons.

Local strategies to manage violence include identifying problems specific to the establishment, such as bullying between prisoners. Strategies must involve regular analysis of problems such as identifying problem areas, formulating solutions and providing action plans to improve personal safety and reduce violence. All establishments, except open prisons, are required to undertake a cell-sharing risk assessment to inform cell allocation. The violence reduction strategy is due to be reviewed during 2009.

Protest: Video Recordings

Mr. Rob Wilson: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many criminal convictions were obtained on the basis of evidence from film of protests stored by the police in each of the last five years. [266580]

Maria Eagle: Data held centrally by the Ministry of Justice on court proceedings does not contain information about the circumstances behind each case, other than the description provided in the statute under which convictions are brought.

Wymott Prison: Manpower

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice if he will take steps to increase the number of prison officers at HM Prison Wymott. [264830]

Mr. Hanson: In March 2008 the target staffing figures for all officers, prison officers, health care officers, physical education (PE) officers and dog handlers at Wymott prison was 221. In February 2009 this had risen to 225, which consisted of an additional PE officer and three additional dog handler officers. We keep this under review.

TRANSPORT

Road Traffic: Accidents

Mr. Ancram: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what estimate he has made of the proportion of accidents on trunk roads caused by vehicles travelling between 50 and 60 miles per hour in the last year for which figures are available. [265128]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The Highways Agency uses validated police accident data to inform its analysis and investigation into accidents occurring on the trunk road network. This data tells us that in the three years 2005 to 2007, speed was adjudged to be a contributory factor in 227 out of 1,120 deaths on trunk roads (20 per cent). However, the data does not include details of the travelling speed of vehicles prior to accidents occurring.

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Badgers: Vaccination

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what estimate he has made of the cost of training personnel to trap and vaccinate badgers under the injectable badger vaccine deployment project. [266959]

Jane Kennedy: Costs for the injectable badger vaccine deployment project have not yet been finalised and will vary depending on the areas in which vaccination will take place, as well as other factors.

Fly Tipping: Prosecutions

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs with reference to the answer to the hon. Member for Brentwood and Ongar of 14 January 2008, *Official Report*, column 858W, on fly-tipping: prosecutions, if he will provide equivalent figures for 2007-08. [262159]

Jane Kennedy: In 2007-08, local authorities and the Environment Agency reported 1,285,300 fly-tipping incidents on the Flycapture system ranging from single black bags to "significant multiple loads".

1,969 prosecutions were taken against fly-tippers in 2007-08, 1,865 (95 per cent.) of which were successful.

Prosecution figures only represent cases taken through the court system and do not reflect the wider range of enforcement actions available to local authorities.

In 2007-08, local authorities also took an additional 179,122 enforcement actions against fly-tippers, consisting of warning letters, statutory notices, fixed penalty notices, formal cautions and injunctions.

Inland Waterways

Mr. Ancram: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if he will make it his policy to assist British Waterways to encourage use of the canal network for *(a)* leisure and *(b)* freight transport in the summer months of 2009. [265200]

Huw Irranca-Davies: I support British Waterways in promoting the use of their waterways which deliver considerable public benefit. British Waterways' national marketing campaign "Yours to Enjoy" highlights the easy accessibility of the waterways to deliver a wide range of public benefits related to recreation.

For example, the Kennet and Avon Canal which runs through the hon. Member's constituency, supports 1,000 leisure and tourism jobs. In addition to sustainable tourism such as hire-boating, the waterways also offer opportunities for green recreation close to home. Use of the towpaths for walking and cycling not only improves health but offers a viable and sustainable transport option which is sometimes overlooked.

Later this month it will be my privilege to reopen the Monmouthshire and Brecon Canal, following a major programme of repairs by British Waterways. This canal plays a significant role in the local economy and together with the leisure businesses it supports it is a major tourism asset for Wales.

Freight is more complex, relying as it does on the availability of both sources and destinations by water, the availability of suitable carriers and other considerations of costs and benefits specific to each traffic and waterway. I support British Waterways' efforts to develop niche freight opportunities on appropriate waterways, such as the larger rivers in Yorkshire and the East Midlands, and London's Olympic Park. I also support British Waterways' other activities to harness the network's potential to help us adapt to climate change, such as generating green renewable energy from wind and water.

For the longer term British Waterways is intending to consult on its future strategy this summer and the Government are intending to consult on a new updated version of "Waterways for Tomorrow" later in the year.

Livestock: Disease Control

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if he will commission research into public attitudes towards the use of livestock vaccination as a means of reducing the incidence of animal disease. [266046]

Jane Kennedy: DEFRA has no current plans to commission research into public attitudes towards the use of livestock vaccination. We do, however, have access to reports produced by other organisations. A recent survey carried out by The Institute of Grocery Distribution (IGD) on behalf of NOAH (The National Office of Animal Health) reveals an increased consumer awareness of animal medicines. The survey also found that consumers have confidence in those working in the food chain to use animal medicines appropriately and produce safe food.

Further details are available at the NOAH website.

Natural Gas: Canvey Island

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) what steps the Environment Agency is taking to investigate the circumstances of the spillage at the Canvey Island Calor Gas site on 15 October 2008; and if he will make a statement; [265451]

(2) what discussions the Environment Agency has had with Calor Gas following recent spillages at Calor Gas's Canvey Island site. [265788]

Jane Kennedy: The Environment Agency and the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) are the joint competent authority for the site. The incident on the 15 October 2008 involved the spillage of liquid petroleum gas following the failure of pipework. The Environment Agency and the HSE agreed that the HSE would lead the investigation with assistance from the Environment Agency if required.

As a result of the HSE led investigation, the Environment Agency has not entered into discussions with the company concerning the specific circumstances surrounding the spillage. However, the Environment Agency continues to undertake its normal regulatory activities at the site.

Rabbits

Mr. Ancram: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if he will make an estimate of changes in the wild rabbit population in the last five years. [265483]

Huw Irranca-Davies: Rabbit populations can fluctuate widely from year to year especially at the local level. However, the most recent mammal data from the Game and Wildlife Conservation Trust National Gamebag Census indicates that the trend for the UK rabbit population is a decline of 19 per cent. for the period 2002-07.

Renewable Energy: Waste

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs in what circumstances *(a)* commercial and *(b)* household waste is regarded as a source of energy; what proportion of such waste streams were regarded as energy sources in 2008; and what assessment he has made of the effect of classification of waste as an energy source on (i) waste collection authorities, (ii) private sector waste contractors and (iii) commercial waste producers. [265747]

Jane Kennedy: The Government do not classify waste in this way. Many types of waste, including paper, wood and plastics, are capable of being either recycled or used to generate energy. Recycling is the generally preferred option because the energy saved from avoiding the use of virgin material is greater than that contained in the waste, although there are some exceptions. Residual waste for which no practical re-use or recycling opportunities exist will therefore be a candidate for energy from waste treatment. In 2007, 5,172,000 tonnes of waste were incinerated for energy recovery purposes. These figures are not available for 2008.

OLYMPICS

Olympic Games 2012: Construction

Mr. Jamie Reed: To ask the Minister for the Olympics how many people are employed on *(a)* construction and *(b)* development of Olympic venues (i) in London and (ii) elsewhere. [263714]

Tessa Jowell: The latest figures published in January 2009 showed that there are 3,315 people working on the Olympic Park in London. The Olympic Delivery Authority expects that 30,000 people in total will be employed on the Olympic Park and the Village over the life of the project. This number will peak at 11,000 in 2010.

The construction of the Weymouth and Portland Sailing Academy (WPSNA) is already complete. Work to enhance the WPSNA began in March 2008 and was completed in November 2008—the first venue completed for the London 2012 Olympic games and Paralympic games. During this period 115 people were employed in construction on the site.

Eton Dorney, Broxbourne and the shooting venue at Woolwich are yet to be constructed and will provide further employment opportunities.

CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

Dealing in Cultural Objects (Offences) Act 2003

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport whether he plans to review the Dealing in Cultural Objects (Offences) Act 2003; and if he will make a statement. [266443]

Barbara Follett: The Department for Culture, Media and Sport, as a matter of good practice, intends to review the Dealing in Cultural Objects (Offences) Act as soon as resources allow.

National Lottery: Grants

Mr. Hepburn: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much Lottery funding has been awarded to organisations in *(a)* Jarrow constituency, *(b)* South Tyneside, *(c)* the North East and *(d)* the UK in each year since 1997. [266867]

Barbara Follett: Full details of lottery funding for organisations in *(a)* Jarrow constituency, *(b)* South Tyneside, *(c)* the North East and *(d)* the UK in each year since 1997 can be found at the National Lottery Grants Database:

http://www.lottery.culture.gov.uk/

Regeneration: Coastal Areas

Mr. Ellwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much funding his Department has provided for the regeneration of seaside towns in each of the last three years; and what plans there are for such funding in the next funding round. [267580]

Barbara Follett: My Department's contribution to the Government's work in support of the regeneration of seaside towns is through the £45 million (£15 million per annum over the next three years) Sea Change Programme. This has only been in place since 1 April 2008, but £29.3 million has been made available for regeneration of seaside towns through this initiative since then as set out in the table:

Financial year	*Grant allocated (£)*
2008-09	14,610,900
2009-10	14,665,500
Total allocated to date	29,276,400

It is too early to announce plans for public expenditure beyond 2011.

Video Games

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport when he plans to publish the results of his Department's video games consultation. [267369]

Barbara Follett: We expect to publish the results shortly.

WORK AND PENSIONS

Jobseeker's Allowance

Mr. Frank Field: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much he has allocated for expenditure on income-based jobseeker's allowance in the next three years. [266790]

Mr. McNulty *[holding answer 26 March 2009]:* Most benefits, including income-based jobseeker's allowance, are managed through Annually Managed Expenditure (AME). AME is public expenditure for which multi-year spending limits are not seen as appropriate, and which is instead subject to regular review.

Available information on future jobseeker's allowance expenditure up to 2010-11 is shown in the table, taken from the forecasts published at the Pre-Budget Report in November. The figures will be updated after the Budget on 22 April 2009.

Forecast JSA Expenditure

	£ million
2008-09	2,067
2009-10	3,250
2010-11	3,800

Source:
DWP website:
http://www.dwp.gov.uk/asd/asd4/
ABtables_PBR2008_rounded.xls?x=1

New Deal Schemes

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what training for employment officers his Department plans to provide to external providers of the Flexible New Deal; and what budget has been allocated for this training. [262846]

Mr. McNulty *[holding answer 11 March 2009]:* The successful flexible new deal providers will be contracted to deliver their own service delivery model, involving support tailored to the needs of each individual.

As such employment officer status will be an integral part of contractors' job roles and it will be the employer's responsibility to provide and fund any necessary training. The same situation applies in current new deal contracts and employment zones.

Responsibility for the customer's continuing entitlement to jobseeker's allowance will remain the responsibility of Jobcentre Plus.

Pensions Ombudsman

John Barrett: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions whether the Pensions Ombudsman requires relevant case evidence to be submitted before it may exercise its discretion not to investigate cases. [259737]

Ms Rosie Winterton *[holding answer 25 February 2009]:* The Pensions Ombudsman will seek such evidence as he considers necessary to determine whether or not to investigate a complaint.

Welfare Tax Credits

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) how many hardship payment awards his Department has made *(a)* in each region and *(b)* at each payment level in each of the last 12 months for which figures are available; [261066]

(2) how many hardship payment awards his Department has made in each of the last 10 years for which figures are available. [261067]

Kitty Ussher: The administration of Jobcentre Plus is a matter for the acting chief executive of Jobcentre Plus, Mel Groves. I have asked him to provide my hon. Friend with the information requested.

Letter from Mel Groves:

The Secretary of State has asked me to reply to your questions asking how many hardship payment awards his Department has made (a) in each region and (b) at each payment level in each of the last 12 months for which figures are available and how many hardship payment awards his Department has made in each of the last 10 years for which figures are available. This is something which falls within the responsibilities delegated to me as Acting Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus.

Jobcentre Plus has management information relating to Jobseeker's Allowance hardship payments. However, this information is not available prior to July 2002. The information held does not distinguish between the payment levels. The available data is attached at Annex 1.

Annex 1

JSA hardship awards made

	2008											2009
	Feb	*Mar*	*Apr*	*May*	*Jun*	*Jul*	*Aug*	*Sep*	*Oct*	*Nov*	*Dec*	*Jan*
Jobcentre Plus National	3,230	2,502	3,006	2,899	3,068	3,235	2,701	3,040	3,090	2,881	2,911	2,990
East Midlands	166	127	136	120	156	137	113	108	144	144	190	148
East of England	178	175	174	210	172	210	146	199	178	178	140	175
London	300	283	357	246	308	272	304	310	314	296	319	279
North East	240	181	233	219	206	258	216	206	203	181	172	239
North West	376	327	320	358	427	384	337	344	341	329	375	363
Scotland	327	266	361	305	430	339	318	327	392	338	396	369
South East	405	209	245	197	161	229	186	243	184	218	233	242
South West	290	219	243	242	235	341	291	300	255	265	249	376
Wales	212	186	255	217	205	212	155	181	137	120	153	121
West Midlands	240	274	260	257	282	296	277	364	401	335	310	262
Yorkshire and The Humber	413	330	534	528	486	557	358	458	541	477	374	416

National JSA Hardship Awards made in the years ending March

	Number
2003[1]	47,425
2004	40,737
2005	43,518
2006	30,129
2007	28,956
2008	32,222
2009[2]	29,921

[1] From July 2002

[2] To January 2009

Source:

Management Information System Platform

DEFENCE

Afghanistan: Peacekeeping Operations

Mr. Hollobone: To ask the Secretary of State for [illegible] what assessment has been made of the [illegible]veness of the Jackal armoured vehicle in [illegible]ecting frontline service personnel in Afghanistan from blasts. [267298]

Mr. Quentin Davies: The Jackal is a highly mobile weapons platform which has been subject to detailed technical assessment. While we believe that Jackal is appropriately protected given its role and the threats it faces, I cannot comment on the specific levels of protection, as disclosure would, or would be likely to prejudice the capability, effectiveness or security of the armed forces.

Armed Forces: Pay

Dr. Murrison: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence when the Armed Forces Pay Review Body's report for 2009 will be published; and what the reasons are for the time taken to publish the report. [267235]

Mr. Hutton: The 2009 Report of the Armed Forces Pay Review Body (AFPRB) will be published shortly. It is right that Ministers take time before this important report is published to consider carefully their response.

Dr. Murrison: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence on what date the Armed Forces Pay Review Body report for 2009 was submitted to the Prime Minister. [267236]

Mr. Hutton: The 2009 Report of the Armed Forces Pay Review Body was submitted to the Prime Minister on 29 January.

Armed Forces: Religion

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many military chaplains there were in each of the armed services in each of the last five years. [266933]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The following table provides the number of military chaplains in each of the armed services as at 1 April for each of the last five years:

	2004	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*
Naval Service	70	70	70	70	[1]60
Army	150	150	150	[1]150	[1]150
Royal Air Force	80	80	70	70	[1]60

[1] Provisional

Due to ongoing validation of data from the Joint Personnel Administration System, Army strength statistics from 1 April 2007, and Naval Service and RAF strength statistics from 1 May 2007 are provisional and subject to review.

Armoured Fighting Vehicles

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence when he expects the assessment phase for the Future Rapid Effects System Scout vehicle to conclude. [264960]

Mr. Quentin Davies: The assessment phase of a project is the period during which a range of options to meet the requirement are examined and tested. The phase will not end until the evidence is sufficiently mature to allow a decision to be made on the option to be taken forward. It is not possible to be precise in advance about when this point will be reached but I hope it can conclude before the end of this year.

Colombia: Politics and Government

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what recent assessment he has made of the security situation in Colombia; and if he will make a statement. [266071]

Gillian Merron: I have been asked to reply.

The security situation in Colombia has improved over recent years, in particular in Colombia's main urban centres. Violent crime and kidnappings have reduced. But serious threats to security and therefore the human rights of all Colombians remain, especially in those areas where illegal armed groups are active. We regularly call on the Government of Colombia to address these areas of concern.

Defence Medical Rehabilitation Centre Headley Court

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many personnel have been admitted to the Defence Medical Rehabilitation Centre Headley Court *(a)* in each year since 2005 and *(b)* in each of the last 14 months. [265134]

Mr. Kevan Jones: The Defence Medical Rehabilitation Centre at Headley Court records the total number of patient episodes, which is the number of collated reviews for individual patients, as well as new patient referrals. The total numbers of such episodes over the last five financial years up to 28 February are provided in the following table. These figures include patient episodes at both the Defence Medical Rehabilitation Centre itself and the London and Overseas Regional Rehabilitation Unit which is also based at Headley Court.

	In-patients	*Out-patients*	*Total*
2004-05	1,544	2,913	4,457
2005-06	1,408	3,093	4,501
2006-07	1,685	4,219	5,904
2007-08	1,885	5,000	6,885
2008-09	1,830	5,669	7,499

Details over the last 14 months are provided as follows.

	In-patients	*Out-patients*	*Total*
January 2008	163	499	662
February 2008	166	513	679
March 2008	148	470	618
April 2008	128	554	682
May 2008	113	445	558
June 2008	174	530	704
July 2008	206	479	685
August 2008	176	396	572
September 2008	161	461	622
October 2008	157	520	677
November 2008	141	548	689
December 2008	55	357	412
January 2009	124	528	652
February 2009	113	461	574

Patient referrals cover a wide range of injuries. Over the period covered by these statistics, there has been an increase in military operational tempo. This has led to an increase in patient activity overall and a more complex patient cohort requiring repeat admission to Headley Court. There have also been changes in the balance between the numbers of patients requiring a ward bed and those who do not, including an increase in specialist clinics such as consultant-led visiting clinics and prosthetic clinics. However, it continues to be the case that most cases treated at Headley Court have not resulted from current operations in Afghanistan and Iraq.

Middle East: Armed Conflict

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the Answer of 10 March 2009, *Official Report*, column 236W, on Navy: deployment, what the outcome was of the conference in London held on 13 March on contingency options directed at countering arms smuggling into Gaza; and what decisions have been made on the UK's contribution to such operations. [266919]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: In response to concerns over the flow of weapons to the Gaza Strip, the nations represented at the London Conference on tackling arms smuggling into Gaza agreed and published a 'Program of Action'. This initiative seeks to enhance efforts to prevent and interdict the illicit trafficking of arms, ammunition and weapon component to Gaza and, within the relevant jurisdictions prevent the facilitation of such transfers. A range of options is available for participating governments to consider, including the sharing of information and intelligence, co-ordinated diplomatic engagement and co-ordinating military and law enforcement activities.

The UK continues to explore a number of contingency options to support this initiative and will attend further meetings of participating states.

Monuments: Bury

Mr. Chaytor: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence when he expects the Lutyens war memorial in Bury to be replaced with an alternative structure; whether he plans to consult publicly on the form of that replacement; and if he will make a statement. [267241]

Mr. Kevan Jones: The Ministry of Defence does officially commemorate the final resting place of all those who die in service and the UK Government contributes close to £40 million each year towards the work of the Commonwealth War Graves Commission to mark and maintain the graves, and the official memorials for those who have no known grave, of some 1.7 million Commonwealth service personnel who died during the two World Wars.

However, the Department does not have the responsibility for war memorials. This responsibility rests with the owner of the memorial, which, in the case of the Lutyens War Memorial in Bury, is the Trustees of the Royal Regiment of Fusiliers Museum, an independent charity.

Navy: Manpower

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the *(a)* required strength, *(b)* actual strength and *(c)* percentage shortfall is in each trade in the Royal Navy. [266944]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The following table provides information on the liability and actual trained strength as at 1 February 2009 for each trade/specialisation for both officers and ratings/other ranks.

February 2009

	Branch	*Specialisation*	*Liability*	*Regular strength*	*Surplus/ Deficit (%)*	*FTRS*	*Total inc FTRS*	*Surplus/ Deficit (%)*
Officers	*Warfare*	Air Traffic Controller	80	80	2	0	80	2
		Aviator	50	60	23	0	60	23
		Communications	30	50	64	0	50	64
		Fighter Controller	40	50	11	0	50	11
		Electronic Warfare	20	30	74	0	30	74
		RN Police	20	20	8	[1]—	20	14
		Hydrographer/Meteographer	190	160	-13	10	170	-10
		Mine Clearance Diver/Mine Warfare	110	130	20	[1]—	140	23
		Pilot	430	500	16	[1]—	510	17
		Observer	480	350	-27	[1]—	350	-26
		Observer or Pilot	[1]—	0	n/a	0	0	n/a
		Principle Warfare Officer	480	550	14	10	560	16
		General Service Warfare	290	440	51	10	450	53
		Submariner	320	320	1	[1]—	320	2
		Other	[1]—	0	n/a	0	0	n/a
		Any Warfare	370	0	n/a	0	0	n/a
	Warfare Total		2,920	2,750	-6	40	2,780	-4
	Engineers	Air Engineer	290	310	7	[1]—	310	7
		Information Systems	80	80	-3	[1]—	80	-2
		Information Systems (Submariner)	[1]—	[1]—	50	0	[1]—	50
		Training Manager	200	220	9	10	220	12
		Training Manager (Submariner)	10	20	217	0	20	217
		Marine Engineer	250	330	30	[1]—	340	32

February 2009

	Branch	Specialisation	Liability	Regular strength	Surplus/ Deficit (%)	FTRS	Total inc. FTRS	Surplus/ Deficit (%)
		Marine Engineer (Submariner)	250	270	7	0	270	8
		Weapons Engineer	370	430	17	[1]—	430	18
		Weapons Engineer (Submariner)	200	220	13	[1]—	220	14
		Any General Service Engineer	50	0	n/a	0	0	n/a
		Any Submariner Engineer	20	0	n/a	0	0	n/a
		Any Engineer/No Spec	40	0	n/a	[1]—	[1]—	n/a
	Engineers Total		1,750	1,880	7	20	1,900	9
	Logistics	Barrister	20	30	26	0	30	26
		Chartered Management Accountant	10	20	128	0	20	128
		Any Logistics/No Specialisation	520	410	-20	10	420	-19
		Logistics Submariner	20	100	315	0	100	315
		Family Services	[1]—	[1]—	-75	0	[1]—	-75
	Logistics Total		580	560	-3	10	560	-2
	Royal Marines	General Service	720	640	-12	90	720	0
		BS	10	10	12	0	10	12
	Royal Marines Total		730	650	-11	90	740	0
	Doctors		240	260	9	0	260	9
	Dentists		60	60	-5	[1]—	60	-3
	Queen Alexandra Royal Naval Nursing Service		100	80	-16	–	80	-16
	Medical Services		60	60	-4	[1]—	60	-2
	Chaplains		80	60	-17	0	60	-17
	Careers		[1]—	[1]—	0	[1]—	[1]—	100
	Inter Branch Trainees		–	30	n/a	0	30	n/a
Officers Total			6,520	6,400	-2	160	6,560	1
	Warfare General Service	Warfare Specialisation	960	1,060	11	0	1,060	11
		Above Water Tactical	510	450	-12	10	450	-11
		Above Water Warfare	420	370	-12	10	380	-11
		Electronic Warfare	240	200	-16	0	200	-16
		Underwater Warfare	230	220	-7	[1]—	220	-6
		Communications Information Systems	1,050	1,020	-3	10	1,030	-2
		Hydrographer/Meteographer	100	90	-7	0	90	-7
		Mine Warfare	320	310	-3	[1]—	310	-2
		Diver	300	300	-3	[1]—	300	-2
		Seaman	850	690	-18	[1]—	700	-18
		Survey Recorder	50	50	-3	0	50	-3
		Weapons Analyst	[1]—	[1]—	28	0	[1]—	28
		Physical Training Instructor	220	220	-2	[1]—	220	0
		RN police	280	270	-3	20	280	2
		Telephonists	[1]—	[1]—	-50	0	[1]—	-50
		Communications Technician	250	260	4	[1]—	260	4
	Warfare General Service Total		5,780	5,510	-5	50	5,560	-4
	Warfare Aviation	Aircrew man	110	140	25	[1]—	140	26
		Naval Airman (Aircraft Controller)	150	110	-25	[1]—	120	-24

February 2009

Branch	*Specialisation*	*Liability*	*Regular strength*	*Surplus/ Deficit (%)*	*FTRS*	*Total inc FTRS*	*Surplus/ Deficit (%)*
	Naval Airman (Aircraft Handler)	440	420	-5	0	420	-5
	Naval Airman (Metographer)	70	70	6	0	70	6
	Naval Airman (Photographer)	100	90	-8	0	90	-8
	No Spec	0	[1]—	n/a	0	[1]—	n/a
Warfare Aviation Total		870	830	-4	[1]—	840	-4
Warfare Submariner	Coxswain Submariner	40	40	8	0	40	8
	Sensors Submariner	370	330	-11	[1]—	330	-10
	Tactical Submariner	250	230	-10	[1]—	230	-9
	Communications Information Systems Submariner	250	210	-16	[1]—	210	-15
Warfare Submariner Total		910	810	-11	10	820	-10
Engineering General Service	Weapons Engineering Technician/Mechanic/Artificer	2,050	2,050	0	10	2,050	0
	Marine Engineering Technician/ Mechanic/Artificer	3,270	3,070	-6	[1]—	3,070	-6
	Education Training & Support	10	[1]—	-4	0	[1]—	-4
	Any Engineer GS	[1]—	0	n/a	0		n/a
Engineering General Service Total		5,320	5,120	-4	10	5,130	-4
Engineering Submariner	Weapons Engineering Technician/Mechanic/Artificer SM	840	880	5	20	890	7
	Marine Engineering Technician/ Mechanic/Artificer SM	1,340	1,170	-13	40	1,210	-9
Engineering Submariner Total		2,170	2,040	-6	60	2,100	-3
Engineering -Air Engineer	Air Engineering Technician/ Mechanic/Artificer	3,290	3,160	-4	10	3,170	-3
	Naval Airman (Safety Equipment)	180	170	-4	0	170	-4
Engineering - Air Engineer Total		3,470	3,330	-4	10	3,350	-3
Logistics	Catering Services (Preparation)	870	800	-8	10	810	-7
	Catering Services (Preparation) Submariner	110	140	24	0	140	24
	Catering Services (Delivery)	570	530	-8	[1]—	530	-8
	Catering Services (Delivery) Submariner	70	60	-9	-	60	-9
	Catering Services - Any Personnel	10	0	n/a	0	0	n/a
	Personnel	860	830	-4	10	840	-3
	Personnel Submariner	50	60	13	0	60	13
	Supply Chain	660	630	-5	[1]—	640	-4
	Supply Chain Submariner	70	90	42	[1]—	100	45
	Family Services	30	20	-26	0	20	-26
	Any Logistics	[1]—	0	n/a	0	0	n/a
Logistics Total		3,310	3,170	-4	20	3,190	-4
Medical	Dental Hygienist	20	10	-18	0	10	-18
	Dental Surgery Assistant	90	90	-2	0	90	-2
	Medical Assistant (General Service and Submariner)	650	660	1	0	660	1
	Naval Nurse	210	190	-10	0	190	-10
	Medical Technical	20	30	38	0	30	38

February 2009

	Branch	*Specialisation*	*Liability*	*Regular strength*	*Surplus/ Deficit (%)*	*FTRS*	*Total inc. FTRS*	*Surplus/ Deficit (%)*
		Any Medical	[1]…	0	n/a	0	0	n/a
	Medical Total		1,000	990	-1	0	990	-1
	Royal Marines	General Service	6,000	5,560	-7	110	5,660	-6
		Musician	270	260	-5	0	260	-5
		Bugler	60	60	-5	0	60	-5
	Royal Marines Total		6,330	5,870	-7	110	5,980	-6
	Careers		[1]…	0	n/a	150	150	n/a
	Any Branch/Spec		100	0	n/a	0	0	n/a
	Inter Branch Trainees		0	150	n/a	0	150	n/a
OR Total			29,260	27,810	-5	430	28,240	-3

[1] = 5 or less than 5.

Notes:

All figures rounded to nearest 10. Where figure ends in 5, figure rounded to nearest multiple of 20 to prevent systematic bias.

Percentages are calculated on original unrounded figures.

Some liability lines, such as "Any Warfare", can be filled from a range of different trades. This makes it impossible to show a one-to-one list of liability against strength split by trade. Not all filled posts count towards the liability (e.g. the 150 Careers Service FTRS Other Ranks all fill posts that are not included in the liability).

Some trades (e.g. PWOs, MCD/MW) have been merged in the table where this makes comparison between strength and liability easier.

Surpluses and deficits shown at branch/trade levels mask significant variations at branch levels.

Inter-Branch trainees, trained people in one trade who are retraining for a new trade, count towards the total trained strength, but are not reported against any trade until they become trained in their new trade.

HEALTH

Care Homes: Standards

Mr. Jamie Reed: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what guidance his Department provides to private nursing home providers on their statutory obligations towards nursing home residents in their care. [267363]

Phil Hope: All care and nursing homes, whether in the private, public or voluntary sectors, are required to comply with the Care Homes Regulations 2001 and to register with the regulator, the Commission for Social Care Inspection (CSCI).

CSCI regulates care homes in accordance with statutory regulations and national minimum standards, which govern the quality and safety of care and level of protection for residents. CSCI publishes a comprehensive range of guidance for providers of care on its website at:

www.csci.org.uk/professional

Mr. Jamie Reed: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will ensure extra resources are made available to publicly owned nursing homes and local primary care trusts where private nursing home providers withdraw their provision. [267364]

Phil Hope: It is for local authorities and the national health service to decide how to provide care in their areas, either through direct provision or by contracting with independent sector providers. Local authorities should ensure they have procedures in place to arrange care for residents if they have to move care homes for whatever reason and that capacity exists to deal with such eventualities.

Councils have received record increases in funding—39 per cent. in real terms—since 1997. The increases, which will rise to 45 per cent. by 2010-11, mean local authorities have the resources they need to arrange care to meet the needs of their local communities.

Mr. Jamie Reed: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether his Department has compiled a list of approved private nursing care home providers. [267365]

Phil Hope: No. All care homes are required to register with the regulator, the Commission for Social Care Inspection (CSCI). Registration by CSCI signifies that a home meets statutory requirements governing quality and safety and is permitted to operate.

CJD: Screening

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) if he will consider the introduction of a blood screening test for blood donors in place of blood filtering; and if he will make a statement; [266420]

(2) whether family members of those who have died of new variant Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease (vCJD) are encouraged to take a blood screening test for vCJD; and if he will make a statement; [266421]

(3) if he will commission a prevalence study of EP-vCJD tests in the UK; and if he will make a statement; [266516]

(4) if he will consider the introduction of EP-vCJD tests in routine blood donations; and if he will make a statement. [266517]

Dawn Primarolo: At present, there is no validated test for variant Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease (vCJD) on the market although the technology is under development.

The expert Advisory Committee on the Safety of Blood, Tissues and Organs will assess options for further vCJD risk reduction measures, including prion filtration technology and screening tests, as further information becomes available, and will advise on their use. If a suitable vCJD blood screening test becomes available, the offer of such a test to individuals will be for agreement between the individual and their clinician.

The Department will consider the use of validated tests for ascertaining the population prevalence of vCJD as they become available.

Dental Services

Norman Lamb: To ask the Secretary of State for Health which primary care trusts have *(a)* no, *(b)* fewer than five, *(c)* between five and 10 and *(d)* 10 or more dentists accepting NHS patients. [267746]

Ann Keen: The information requested is not held centrally. All primary care trusts (PCTs) run dental help lines. Patients who need help in finding a national health service dentist taking on new patients should contact their local PCT.

Departmental Empty Property

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate he has made of the change in the annual cost to his Department of maintaining the empty public buildings owned by his Department as a result of the April 2008 changes to empty property rate relief. [267133]

Mr. Bradshaw: The change in the annual cost to the Department of maintaining empty buildings as a result of the April 2008 changes to empty property rate relief for 2008-09 is £45,000.

Departmental Public Expenditure

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what *(a)* capital funds and *(b)* resource funds his Department has brought forward from its (i) 2009-10 and (ii) 2010-11 budgets for use in (A) 2008-09 and (B) 2009-10; and what schemes this funding is being used to support. [267398]

Mr. Bradshaw: In agreement with Her Majesty's Treasury, £100 million of the Department's Capital Expenditure Limit has been brought forward from 2010-11 for use in 2009-10. This is being used to upgrade up to 600 general practitioner surgeries to support training in practices.

The Capital Expenditure Limit for 2008-09, and the Revenue Expenditure Limits for 2009-10 and 2010-11 are unchanged by any bring forward from later years.

Departmental Standards

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate he has made of the cost to his Department of measuring compliance with its targets under its public service agreements in the last 12 months for which figures are available. [266565]

Mr. Bradshaw: The information is not available and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Glaucoma: Essex

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many people diagnosed with glaucoma there are in *(a)* Castle Point and *(b)* Essex. [266593]

Ann Keen: The information is not available in the format requested.

The number of national health service sight tests, by patient eligibility, including 'Diabetics/Glaucoma sufferer" is available in Table B3 of Annex C of the "General Ophthalmic Services: Activity Statistics for England and Wales—year ending 31 March 2008 report".

Information is provided by primary care trust (PCT) and by strategic health authority (SHA) but is not available by parliamentary constituency.

This report, published on 20 November 2008, has been placed in the Library and is also available on the NHS Information Centre website at:

www.ic.nhs.uk/pubs/gosactivity0708p2

The figures in the above table are not the number of people diagnosed as 'Diabetics/Glaucoma sufferer' but the number of NHS sight tests performed where the patient eligibility is recorded as 'Diabetes/Glaucoma sufferer' on the form.

Patients may qualify for an NHS sight test on more than one criterion. However, they would only be recorded against one criterion on the form. Patients are more likely to be recorded according to their clinical need rather than their age. For example, a patient aged over 60, with glaucoma, is likely to be recorded in the glaucoma category only. The count by eligibility is therefore approximate.

Source:

NHS Information Centre

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much his Department has spent on *(a)* treatment of and *(b)* support for people diagnosed with glaucoma in (i) Castle Point and (ii) Essex county in the last 12 months. [266594]

Ann Keen: This information is not held centrally.

It is the responsibility of primary care trusts to ensure that the services they commission meet the needs of the communities that they serve. This includes the commissioning of services for those people with glaucoma.

Health Services

Norman Lamb: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate he has made of changes to demand for NHS services as a result of the economic downturn. [265721]

Mr. Bradshaw: I refer the hon. Member to the reply given to the hon. Member for Henley (John Howell) on 24 March 2009, *Official Report*, column 150.

Hospital Beds

Mr. Jamie Reed: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps are in place to alleviate pressure on beds in the NHS caused by private nursing care home providers ending provision of services. [267366]

Phil Hope: It is for primary care trusts to work with local social services departments to arrange adequate services to provide for the needs of local people.

Incontinence: Medical Equipment

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health when he next expects to report on Part IX of the Drug Tariff. [267463]

Mr. Oaten: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what timetable he has set for the introduction of the new arrangements for stoma and incontinence products under Part IX of the Drug Tariff; and if he will make a statement. [267465]

Phil Hope: The new arrangements for the provision of stoma and incontinence products and the timetable for their introduction will be announced in due course.

Peracetic Acid

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) whether his Department has *(a)* commissioned and *(b)* evaluated research on the effectiveness of anti-microbial infection control products which generate peracetic acid; and if he will make a statement; [266772]

(2) what proportion of primary care trusts use products which generate peracetic acid to control healthcare-acquired infections. [266773]

Ann Keen: The Department has not commissioned research on the effectiveness of anti-microbial infection control products that generate peracetic acid.

The Department's Rapid Review Panel has reviewed a peracetic acid generating wipe and awarded it a recommendation 3. This means that the product is a potentially useful new concept but insufficiently validated; more research and development is required before it is ready for evaluation in practice.

The Department does not collect the information requested centrally. National health service bodies are free to choose which products to purchase and will maintain their own records.

vCJD

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many of those who participated in routine blood donations have died of new variant Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease since 1997. [266419]

Dawn Primarolo: The Transfusion Medicine Epidemiology Review, a collaborative project between the United Kingdom National Creutzfeldt-Jakob Disease Surveillance Unit and the United Kingdom Blood Services, records that since 1997 blood components have been issued from 17 blood donors who subsequently died of vCJD.

Wheelchairs

Mr. Oaten: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what timetable he has set for *(a)* responding to the consultation on wheelchair services undertaken as part of the review of the care services efficiency delivery retail model and *(b)* establishing the new procurement strategy for children's equipment. [267464]

Phil Hope: Discussions are ongoing within the Department to agree the most appropriate way forward for wheelchair services. We expect these discussions to be concluded by the summer.

The Department of Health, jointly with Department of Children Schools and Families, has commissioned work to develop a procurement strategy for children's equipment, which will report in the summer.

LEADER OF THE HOUSE

Private Members' Bills

Mr. Amess: To ask the Leader of the House what her policy is on the circumstances under which the Government will provide time to debate private Members' Bills in Government time; and if she will make a statement. [266974]

Chris Bryant: Precedence in Government time is given to private Members' bills only very rarely. The last occasion recorded in the Sessional Returns was the Census (Amendment) Bill [*Lords*] in 1999-2000.

Mr. Amess: To ask the Leader of the House which private Members' Bills were taken up by a member of the Government when the Bills reached the second House in which they were to be considered in each session since 1997-98. [266975]

Chris Bryant: An exhaustive list of private Members' and Peers' bills which were taken up by the Government in the second House is not held centrally and could be compiled only at disproportionate cost.

I am aware of only one example of such a bill—the Forced Marriages (Civil Protection) Bill [*Lords*], in Session 2006-07.

In addition, the Census (Amendment) Bill [*Lords*], though it was taken up by a private Member, was given precedence in Government time in Session 1999-2000.

INNOVATION, UNIVERSITIES AND SKILLS

Departmental Training

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how many *(a)* staff and *(b)* ministerial away days have been organised by his Department since its inception; and what the cost was of such events. [266209]

Mr. Simon: The Department was created on 28 June 2007. Information on away days for employees is not held centrally and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost. However, the organisation of meetings outside the Department's buildings will be based on sound planning and, where accommodation costs and other charges are involved, our policies on appropriateness and value for money.

There have been no ministerial away days since the inception of the Department.

TREASURY

Government Departments: Internet

Grant Shapps: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer which Government departments use the Government Secure Intranet; and what the cost of maintaining the service was in the most recent 12 month period for which figures are available. [266305]

Ian Pearson: The Government secure intranet (GSi) forms part of critical national infrastructure and as such detailed customer information is not made publicly available.

There is no cost to OGCbuying.solutions for maintaining the site.

Members: Correspondence

Sir Gerald Kaufman: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) when he plans to reply to the letter of 5 January 2009 from the right hon. Member for Manchester, Gorton, with regard to Mr E. Warne; [266362]

(2) when he plans to reply to the letter of 28 January 2009 from the right hon. Member for Manchester, Gorton, with regard to Mr Fethi Souissi. [266369]

Ian Pearson: Due to the large volume of correspondence received on these issues there has been a delay in sending some responses. The Treasury hopes to be in a position to reply to the right hon. Member shortly.

National Insurance Contributions

Steve Webb: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer by what means a person can obtain *(a)* by telephone and *(b)* by post a list of the years of their working life for which they have made some National Insurance (NI) contributions but not enough for a qualifying year towards their state pension, together with an estimate of the cost of turning each such year into a qualifying year through payment of Class 3 NI contributions where such an option is still available; and if he will make a statement. [267296]

Mr. Timms: A person can write to HM Revenue and Customs, National Insurance Contributions Office, Longbenton, Newcastle upon Tyne, NE98 1ZZ or telephone the National Insurance Enquiry Helpline on 0845 915 5996 and ask for a statement of their national insurance account. The statement requested will show all of the years on that person's national insurance record and the amounts of national insurance (if any) paid each year. The statement will also identify any years which are not qualifying years because no contributions, or insufficient contributions have been paid and, if voluntary contributions can still be paid the dates by which payments must be made and the amounts payable.

Information is available on The Pensions Service website at:

www.thepensionservice.gov.uk/state-pension/basic/faqs

This information can also be accessed from the HM Revenue and Customs website:

www.hmrc.gov.uk/nic/class3-faq.htm

and will be updated before the measure to allow eligible contributions to pay class 3 contributions for additional years comes into force on 6 April 2009.

Tax Allowances: Personal Savings

Mr. Gregory Campbell: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what plans he has to increase the uptake and availability of tax-free regular savings among *(a)* those on low incomes and *(b)* senior citizens. [267389]

Ian Pearson: The Government are committed to doing more to raise levels of financial capability across the population, ensuring people are able to make informed financial choices, including about saving, and develop the skills and confidence to manage their finances effectively.

The Saving Gateway, a cash saving scheme that aims to kick-start a saving habit among working age people on lower incomes and promote financial inclusion, will be introduced next year.

Account holders will be able to deposit up to £25 a month for two years, and the Government will contribute 50p for each pound saved in the scheme. The Government contribution, and any other return on Saving Gateway accounts, will be tax-free.

Every adult also has an annual individual savings account (ISA) allowance of £7,200, £3,600 of which can be saved in cash. ISAs are tax-free, and the current ISA limits mean that the majority of people can hold all of their savings in a tax-efficient way.

HOME DEPARTMENT

Alcoholic Drinks: Young People

Paul Holmes: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the average fine imposed on those selling alcohol to under-age people was in each year since 2003. [262471]

Mr. Alan Campbell: The average fine imposed on those selling alcohol to under-age people between 2003 and 2007 is available in the following table.

Total amount of fines, persons fined and average fine for selling alcohol to person under 18, 2003-2007

£

	2003			2004			2005		
Offence	*Total fines*	*Persons fined*	*Average*	*Total fines*	*Persons fined*	*Average*	*Total fines*	*Persons fined*	*Average*
Wholesaler selling intoxicating liquor to person under 18 (14352)	—	—	—	320.00	2	160.00	1,400.00	6	233.33

Total amount of fines, persons fined and average fine for selling alcohol to person under 18, 2003-2007

£

	2003			2004			2005		
Offence	*Total fines*	*Persons fined*	*Average*	*Total fines*	*Persons fined*	*Average*	*Total fines*	*Persons fined*	*Average*
Selling etc intoxicating liquor to person under 18[1] (14203) or Sale of alcohol to person under18[2] (14379)	89,385.00	353	253.22	126,310.00	532	237.42	167,055.00	679	246.03
Allowing sale of alcohol to person under 18 (14380)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Persistently selling alcohol to children	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total	89,385.00	353	253.22	126,630.00	534	237.13	168,45[illegible]	685	245.92

	2006			2007		
Offence	*Total fines*	*Persons fined*	*Average*	*Total fines*	*Persons fined*	*Average*
Wholesaler selling intoxicating liquor to person under 18 (14352)	—	—	—	—	—	—
Selling etc intoxicating liquor to person under 18[1] (14203) or Sale of alcohol to person under18[2] (14379)	218,579.00	716	305.28	169,688.00	462	367.29
Allowing sale of alcohol to person under 18 (14380)	2,755.00	10	275.50	2,800.00	6	466.67
Persistently selling alcohol to children	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total	221,334.00	726	304.87	172,488.00	468	368.56

[1] Licensing Act 1964 S 168 A and B as added by Licensing Young Persons) Act 2000 S 1

[2] Licensing Act 2003 S 146

Notes:

1. The average in the Total column is the total of "Total Fines" divided by the total of "Persons Fined
2. The statistics relate to persons for whom these offences were the principal offences for which they were dealt with and disposals were primary disposals handed out. When a defendant has been found guilty of two or more offences the principal offence is the offence for which the heaviest penalty is imposed. Where the same disposal is imposed for two or more offences, the offence selected is the offence for which the statutory maximum penalty is the most severe an offender could be issued with more than one disposal for a committed offence.
3. Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

Source:

IOMSAS1-379-03-09

Animal Experiments

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if she will publish on her Department's website an abstract relating to each project licence granted under the Animals Act 1986 before 2005. [266954]

Mr. Malik: We have no plans to do so. We believe that it is a better use of resources to focus our energies on ensuring that as many abstracts are posted for newly granted licences as possible. Abstracts are provided voluntarily by licensees and there are currently over 1,750 posted on the Home Office website.

Animal Experiments: Primates

Mr. Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what estimate she has made of the cost of the use in *(a)* pharmaceutical research and *(b)* other research areas of cynomolgus macaques born of captive bred parents. [266908]

Mr. Malik: No estimates have yet been made of the cost of using cynomolgus macaques born of captive bred parents for research purposes under the Animals (Scientific Procedures) Act 1986 in either pharmaceutical research or other research areas.

We will consider these costs in assessing the impact of the European Commission's proposal for a draft directive for the protection of animals used in scientific procedures to replace Directive 86/609/EEC published in November 2008. We will publish the impact assessment when we consult formally on the draft directive.

Crime: Cheshire

Derek Twigg: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what estimate she has made of the levels of crime against domestic property in *(a)* Cheshire and *(b)* Halton constituency in the latest period for which figures are available. [266808]

Mr. Alan Campbell: The relevant offences are those of burglary in a dwelling and criminal damage to a dwelling.

In 2007-08, there were 3,865 offences of burglary in a dwelling recorded in the Cheshire police force area. This represents a fall of 13 per cent. compared to 2006-07. There were 5,297 recorded offences of criminal damage to a dwelling in 2007-08, a fall of 14 per cent. compared to the previous year.

There were 581 offences of burglary in a dwelling recorded by the police in Halton in 2007-08, a fall of 12 per cent. over the previous year. There were 1,159 recorded offences of criminal damage to a dwelling, a fall of 8 per cent. over the previous year.

Crime: Wildlife

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many illegal wildlife items were seized in each of the last three years; and if she will make a statement. [266953]

Mr. Alan Campbell: The Home Office does not collect statistics from police forces regarding seizures of illegal wildlife items. However, HM Revenue and Customs has published information in their annual reports regarding items that they have seized under the Convention on the International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES). This is detailed in the attached table:

Further information can be found at:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/about/reports.htm.

	2005-6		*2006-7*		*2007-8*	
	Number of seizures	*Number of items seized*	*Number of seizures*	*Number of items seized*	*Number of seizures*	*Number of items seized*
Live animals and birds	37	1,750	39	1,229	25	442
Parts and derivatives of endangered species	129	991	154	1,315	91	1,821
Ivory	18	37	24	208	15	130
Plants	11	5,482	40	157,428	9	22,245
Other CITES listed species	90	442	99	386	58	1,206
Total	285	8,702	356	160,566	198	25,844

Crime: Young People

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many young people aged between 13 and 19 years have been charged with a non-violent offence in *(a)* England, *(b)* the North East and *(c)* Middlesbrough South and East Cleveland constituency in each of the last five years. [262914]

Mr. Alan Campbell: Information provided by the Ministry of Justice on the number of persons aged 13 to 19 years proceeded against at magistrates courts for indictable offences in England and Wales, England, the North East region, and Cleveland, Durham and Northumbria police force areas (PFAs), from 2003 to 2007 (latest available) are provided in tables 1 to 4. Information for Northern Ireland and Scotland are matters for the Northern Ireland Office and the Scottish Executive respectively.

Charging data are not collected centrally and prosecutions data are therefore given in lieu.

Data are not available at parliamentary constituency level. Data are provided in table 4 broken down by those PFAs, comprising the North East region, in which the Middlesbrough, South and East Cleveland constituency is located.

For consistency with published information, data are given in the tables, by offence group, for persons proceeded against at magistrates courts for indictable offences.

Table 1: Number of persons aged 13 to 19 years proceeded against at magistrates courts for indictable offences in England and Wales, by offence group, 2003 to 2007[1,2,3]

England and Wales	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*
Violent offences					
Violence against the person	20,274	18,869	18,649	18,548	17,955
Sexual offences	1,544	1,715	1,644	1,468	1,412
Robbery	7,289	7,254	7,602	8,387	8,849
Sub-total	29,107	27,838	27,895	28,403	28,216
Other indictable offences					
Burglary	13,583	12,427	11,793	11,583	11,515
Theft and handling stolen goods	35,300	32,283	30,677	29,014	31,024
Fraud and forgery	2,955	2,599	2,232	1,870	1,897
Criminal damage	6,389	6,198	5,969	6,474	6,294
Drug offences	12,621	9,355	9,357	9,253	10,627
Other indictable offences	20,830	19,185	17,338	16,010	14,593
Indictable motoring offences	2,301	1,988	1,629	1,414	1,255
Sub-total	93,979	84,035	78,995	75,618	77,205
Total indictable	123,086	111,873	106,890	104,021	105,421

[1] These statistics relate to persons for whom these offences were the principal offences for which they were dealt with. When a defendant has been found guilty of two or more offences the principal offence is the offence for which the heaviest penalty is imposed. Where the same disposal is imposed for two or more offences, the offence selected is the offence for which the statutory maximum penalty is the most severe.

[2] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

[3] 'Indictable' includes 'indictable only' and 'triable-either-way offences'. 'Indictable only' are the most serious breaches of the criminal law and must be dealt with at the Crown court. 'Triable-either-way' offences may be tried either at the Crown court or at magistrates courts.

Source:

Office for Criminal Justice Reform—Evidence and Analysis Unit.

Table 2: Number of persons aged 13 to 19 years proceeded against at magistrates courts for indictable offences in England, by offence group, 2003 to 2007[1,2,3]

England	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*
Violent offences					
Violence against the person	18,828	17,428	17,341	17,352	16,788
Sexual offences	1,465	1,606	1,538	1,379	1,314
Robbery	7,122	7,082	7,425	8,220	8,623
Sub-total	27,415	26,116	26,304	26,951	26,725

Table 2: Number of persons aged 13 to 19 years proceeded against at magistrates courts for indictable offences in England, by offence group, 2003 to 2007[1, 2, 3]

England	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*
Other indictable offences					
Burglary	12,536	11,465	11,030	10,808	10,814
Theft and handling stolen goods	32,846	30,051	28,769	27,445	29,501
Fraud and forgery	2,805	2,435	2,115	1,785	1,812
Criminal damage	5,822	5,796	5,611	6,211	6,044
Drug offences	11,875	8,750	8,824	8,780	10,186
Other indictable offences	19,406	17,784	16,138	15,032	13,675
Indictable motoring offences	2,105	1,834	1,501	1,290	1,172
Sub-total	87,395	78,115	73,988	71,331	73,204
Total indictable	114,810	104,231	100,292	98,282	99,929

[1] These statistics relate to persons for whom these offences were the principal offences for which they were dealt with. When a defendant has been found guilty of two or more offences the principal offence is the offence for which the heaviest penalty is imposed. Where the same disposal is imposed for two or more offences, the offence selected is the offence for which the statutory maximum penalty is the most severe.

[2] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

[3] 'Indictable' includes 'indictable only' and 'triable-either-way offences'. 'Indictable only' are the most serious breaches of the criminal law and must be dealt with at the Crown court. 'Triable-either-way' offences may be tried either at the Crown court or at magistrates courts.

Source:

Office for Criminal Justice Reform—Evidence and Analysis Unit.

Table 3: Number of persons aged 13 to 19 years proceeded against at magistrates courts for indictable offences in the North East region, by offence group, 2003 to 2007[1, 2, 3]

North East region	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*
Violent offences					
Violence against the person	1,353	1,187	1,198	1,274	1,336
Sexual offences	82	104	107	109	94
Robbery	260	208	172	182	183
Sub-total	1,695	1,499	1,477	1,565	1,613
Other indictable offences					
Burglary	989	725	698	715	746
Theft and handling stolen goods	2,581	2,171	2,000	1,985	2,308
Fraud and forgery	142	113	112	85	114
Criminal damage	305	226	179	214	347
Drug offences	1,010	649	691	646	680
Other indictable offences	1,461	1,226	1,173	1,135	1,133
Indictable motoring offences	162	137	110	101	85
Sub-total	6,650	5,247	4,963	4,881	5,413
Total indictable	8,345	6,746	6,440	6,446	7,026

[1] These statistics relate to persons for whom these offences were the principal offences for which they were dealt with. When a defendant has been found guilty of two or more offences the principal offence is the offence for which the heaviest penalty is imposed. Where the same disposal is imposed for two or more offences, the offence selected is the offence for which the statutory maximum penalty is the most severe.

[2] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

[3] 'Indictable' includes 'indictable only' and 'triable-either-way offences'. 'Indictable only' are the most serious breaches of the criminal law and must be dealt with at the Crown court. 'Triable-either-way' offences may be tried either at the Crown court or at magistrates courts.

Source:

Office for Criminal Justice Reform—Evidence and Analysis Unit.

Table 4: Number of persons aged 13 to 19 years proceeded against at magistrates courts for indictable offences in Cleveland, Durham and Northumbria police force areas, comprising the North East region, by offence group, 2003 to 2007[1, 2, 3]

	2003	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*
Cleveland police force area					
Violent offences					
Violence against the person	267	209	223	286	275
Sexual offences	15	23	21	25	12
Robbery	75	64	45	46	39
Sub-total	357	296	289	357	326
Other indictable					
Burglary	256	191	181	203	198
Theft and handling stolen goods	599	520	430	423	528
Fraud and forgery	27	16	10	9	14
Criminal damage	77	54	38	26	28
Drug offences	199	102	112	78	110
Other indictable offences	362	313	228	212	194
Indictable motoring offences	44	35	30	16	20
Sub-total	1,564	1,231	1,029	967	1,092
Total indictable	1,921	1,527	1,318	1,324	1,418
Durham police force area					
Violent offences					
Violence against the person	275	249	311	335	320
Sexual offences	18	41	33	33	28
Robbery	29	22	20	27	29
Sub-total	322	312	364	395	377
Other indictable offences					
Burglary	109	143	190	141	107
Theft and handling stolen goods	350	330	364	366	426
Fraud and forgery	27	20	24	12	31
Criminal damage	114	94	69	70	103
Drug offences	124	65	91	61	78

Table 4: Number of persons aged 13 to 19 years proceeded against at magistrates courts for indictable offences in Cleveland, Durham and Northumbria police force areas, comprising the North East region, by offence group, 2003 to 2007[1, 2, 3]

	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
Other indictable offences	194	172	240	240	269
Indictable motoring offences	34	33	19	18	15
Sub-total	1,041	857	1,017	908	1,209
Total indictable	1,363	1,169	1,301	1,303	1,566
Northumbria police force area					
Violent offences					
Violence against the person	811	729	664	653	741
Sexual offences	49	40	53	51	54
Robbery	156	122	107	109	115
Sub-total	1,016	891	824	813	910
Other indictable offences					
Burglary	564	391	327	371	351
Theft and handling stolen goods	1,623	1,321	1,186	1,196	1,354
Fraud and forgery	88	77	78	64	69
Criminal damage	114	78	72	118	126
Drug offences	687	482	488	507	492
Other indictable offences	905	741	705	683	670
Indictable motoring offences 84	69	61	67	59	
Sub-total	4,045	3,159	2,917	3,006	3,112
Total indictable	5,061	4,050	3,741	3,819	4,022

[1] These statistics relate to persons for whom these offences were the principal offences for which they were dealt with. When a defendant has been found guilty of two or more offences the principal offence is the offence for which the heaviest penalty is imposed. Where the same disposal is imposed for two or more offences, the offence selected is the offence for which the statutory maximum penalty is the most severe.

[2] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

[3] 'Indictable' includes 'indictable only' and 'triable-either-way offences'. 'Indictable only' are the most serious breaches of the criminal law and must be dealt with at the Crown court. 'Triable-either-way' offences may be tried either at the Crown court or at magistrates courts.

Source:

Office for Criminal Justice Reform—Evidence and Analysis Unit.

Custody: Ex-servicemen

Dr. Murrison: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if she will ensure that the Veterans in Custody Support programme's Have you served? leaflet is made available to those detained in police custody suites who have previously served in the armed forces; and if she will make a statement. [261048]

Mr. Coaker: Posters and leaflets for Veterans Prison In-Reach will be circulated shortly under the Veterans Prison In-Reach Initiative to all UK prison establishments. We will consider with colleagues in the Ministry of Defence and the Ministry of Justice the suitability of providing information specific to veterans held in police custody in England and Wales.

Departmental Disciplinary Proceedings

Mr. Gordon Prentice: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) how many civil servants in her Department have been *(a)* disciplined and *(b)* dismissed for breaches of the Civil Service Code in each of the last three years; [241408]

(2) pursuant to her Statement of 4 December 2008, if she will place in the Library a list of relevant leaks, by broad category of highly classified material which was passed to the police. [241409]

Mr. Woolas *[holding answer 9 December 2008]:* Information on breaches of the civil service code is not held centrally, because cases where staff are disciplined or dismissed are recorded in relation to the category of offence (for instance, abuse of IT or general misconduct). Collating this information would incur disproportionate cost.

But the figures in relation to all discipline and dismissal cases, on disciplinary grounds, attendance grounds and efficiency grounds in Home Office HQ and the UK Border Agency for the last three years are:

Numbers of staff dismissed

	Home Office HQ	UK Border Agency
2006	10	62
2007	6	91
2008	6	88

Numbers of staff disciplined

	Home Office HQ	UK Border Agency
2006	16	410
2007	41	573
2008	30	550

The police were passed papers relating to a range of identified leaks from the Home Office. It is Home Office policy not to comment on the nature of leaked material.

Domestic Violence: Hertfordshire

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) how many men and teenage boys have reported being subject to domestic violence in *(a)* Hemel Hempstead and *(b)* Hertfordshire in the last 12 months; [265791]

(2) how many women and teenage girls have reported being subject to domestic violence in *(a)* Hemel Hempstead and *(b)* Hertfordshire in the last 12 months. [265792]

Mr. Alan Campbell: We do not collect this information centrally.

Drugs: East Sussex

Mr. Waterson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many offences of possession of *(a)* cannabis, *(b)* cocaine, *(c)* heroin, (d) ecstasy, *(e)* ketamine and *(f)* LSD have been recorded by police in (i) Eastbourne and (ii) East Sussex in each of the last 10 years. [267272]

Mr. Alan Campbell: Recorded offences of possession of cannabis have been collected separately since 2004-05 and the available figures are given in the table. Possession of other drug types are included in the Home Office classification 'Possession of controlled drugs (excluding cannabis)' but the drug type cannot be separately identified.

Recent rises in recorded possession of cannabis offences are largely associated with the increased police use of powers to issue warnings for cannabis possession, these powers first becoming nationally available from 1 April 2004.

Offence categorisations as used in police recorded crime have always been broader than those used in court proceedings and the detailed returns on cautioning. From 1 April 2004, it was agreed that cannabis possession be separated from other drug possession offences to better monitor the use of police powers to issue cannabis warnings. It has not been considered necessary to record more detailed breakdowns on other drug possession offences as overall detection rates for these offences are high.

Information on court proceedings and cautioning give a good picture of the extent of other drug possessions that come to the attention of the police by type of drug.

Possession of cannabis offences recorded by the police

	Eastbourne local authority area	*East Sussex Basic Command Unit*
2004-05	139	n/a
2005-06	168	n/a
2006-07	206	888
2007-08	317	1,267

n/a = Not available.

Dual Nationality

Mrs. Gillan: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer of 23 March 2009, *Official Report*, column 116W, on dual nationality, where the information requested is held; and if she will collect and publish it. [267361]

Mr. Malik: There is no requirement under the British Nationality Act 1981 for a person to renounce their previous nationality when acquiring British citizenship. Nor is there any bar on holding another nationality at the same time as British citizenship, for example where one nationality is held by birth and the other by descent.

The Identity and Passport Service (IPS) does not request information about applicant's dual nationality as part of the application for a British passport there is, therefore, no information held by the IPS or Home Office to provide a response to this question.

Furthermore if a British passport holder subsequently gains the nationality of another country they are not required to inform the IPS or the Home Office.

Firearms

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what estimate she has made of the number of police investigations of suspected offences involving ball-bearing guns in each of the last three years; what guidance is issued to the police on conducting such investigations; and if she will make a statement. [265777]

Mr. Coaker: Available data relate to the number of offences recorded by the police involving the use of a BB gun or soft air weapon, where they were fired, used as a blunt instrument against a person, or used as a threat. Latest data relate to 2007-08 and were published in table 2.03 of 'Homicides, Firearm Offences and Intimate Violence 2007-08' (Home Office Statistical Bulletin 02/09, 22 January 2009), which is available online at:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pdfs09/hosb0209.pdf

A copy of the relevant table is shown as follows.

How suspected offences are investigated is an operational matter for the force concerned. To help them tackle the misuse of any kind of imitation firearm we have strengthened the controls considerably on several recent occasions. It is now an offence to have an imitation firearm in a public place without reasonable excuse; they cannot be sold to persons under 18; and there is a general ban on the sale, importation and manufacture of realistic imitations. It is also a serious offence to threaten other people with an imitation firearm.

Table 2.03 crimes recorded by the police in England and Wales in which firearms were reported to have been used by type of principal weapon, 1998-99 to 2007-08—number of offences

Recorded crime

Principal weapon	*1998-99*	*1999-2000*	*2000-01*	*2001-02*	*2002-03*	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*
Long-barrelled shotgun	322	353	363	380	364	426	386	375	360	365
Sawn-off shotgun	320	340	305	332	311	294	291	267	252	237
Handgun										
Converted imitation	—	—	—	—	—	—	20	7	12	7
Reactivated	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	2	2	1
Converted air pistol	—	—	—	—	—	—	14	12	13	11
Other	—	—	—	—	—	—	860	1,022	900	895
Type unknown	—	—	—	—	—	—	3,450	3,629	3,230	3,298
Handgun total	2,687	3,685	4,019	5,874	5,549	5,144	4,360	4,672	4,173	4,172
Rifle	43	67	36	64	52	40	56	71	69	71

Table 2.01 Crimes recorded by the police in England and Wales in which firearms were reported to have been used by type of principal weapon, 1998-99 to 2007-08
number of offences

Recorded crime

Principal weapon	*1998-99*[1]	*1999-2000*	*2000-01*	*2001-02*[2]	*2002-03*[3]	*2003-04*	*2004-05*[4]	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*
Imitation firearms[5]										
Imitation handgun	—	—	—	—	—	—	355	368	299	322
BB guns/soft air weapons	—	—	—	—	—	—	2,863	2,755	2,094	2,124
Deactivated firearm	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	4	2	2
Blank firer	—	—	—	—	—	—	27	17	21	21
Other imitation	—	—	—	—	—	—	127	133	100	93
Imitation firearms total	566	623	707	1,246	1,814	2,146	3,373	3,277	2,516	2,562
Unidentified firearm	665	762	959	1,176	1,431	1,356	1,500	1,362	1,276	1,325
Other firearms[5]										
Unconverted starting gun	—	—	—	—	—	—	9	9	3	6
CS gas	—	—	—	—	—	—	516	461	436	552
Pepper spray	—	—	—	—	—	—	141	154	179	228
Machine gun	—	—	—	—	—	—	25	34	39	18
Stun gun	—	—	—	—	—	—	143	133	108	118
Other converted imitation weapon	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	2	—	4
Other reactivated weapon	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	1	2
Disguised firearm	—	—	—	—	—	—	14	19	57	87
Other firearm (specified)	—	—	—	—	—	—	336	250	176	118
Other firearms total	[illegible]	813	[illegible]	952	730	926	1,185	1,064	999	1,133
All firearms excluding air weapons	5,209	6,843	7,471	10,024	10,248	10,338	11,069	11,088	9,645	9,865
Air weapon	8,665	10,103	10,227	12,377	13,822	13,756	11,825	10,439	8,836	7,478
All firearms	13,874	16,946	17,698	22,401	24,070	24,094	22,894	21,527	18,481	17,343

[1] There was a change in the counting rules for recorded crime on 1 April 1998.
[2] Figures may have been inflated by some police forces implementing the principles of the National Crime Recording Standard before 1 April 2002.
[3] The National Crime Recording Standard was introduced on 1 April 2002. Figures for some crime categories may have been inflated by this.
[4] More explicit guidelines for the classification of weapons introduced on 1 April 2004 may have increased the recording of firearm offences, particularly those committed by imitation weapons.
[5] Further weapon breakdowns were available for the first time on 1 April 2004.

Glorification of Terrorism

Mr. Ancram: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many charges relating to the glorification of terrorism have been brought in England since 2007. [265293]

Mr. Coaker: The information is not currently held.

The Home Office, Ministry of Justice and Attorney General's Office are currently working with the National Coordinator for Terrorist Investigations to improve the quality of data relating to those arrested, charged, convicted and imprisoned under terrorist legislation and under other legislation but considered terrorist related. As soon as this is complete a Statistical Bulletin covering this information will be published by the Home Office.

The bulletin will say how many individuals have been charged and convicted for encouragement of terrorism; however it will not break it down any further.

National DNA Database

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people of each *(a)* age group, *(b)* ethnicity, *(c)* gender and *(d)* religion had DNA profiles stored on the national DNA database at the latest date for which figures are available. [264765]

Mr. Alan Campbell: The figures given in Table 1 show the number of profiles stored on the national DNA database (NDNAD) by police forces in England and Wales at 9 January 2009, broken down by age group. The age groups relate to an individual's age on 9 January 2009 rather than their age on the date when the profile was loaded onto the NDNAD. These figures do not reflect the recent removal of all profiles of children under 10 from the NDNAD; following the Home Secretary's announcement on 16 December 2008 that all profiles belonging to children under 10 would be removed, there are no longer any such profiles on the NDNAD (as at 5 March 2009).

The figures given in Table 2 show the number of profiles stored on the NDNAD by police forces in England and Wales at 9 January 2009, broken down by ethnic appearance (Table 2). Ethnic appearance is based on the judgment of the police officer taking the sample as to which of six broad ethnic appearance categories the person is considered to belong. "Unknown" means that no ethnic appearance information was recorded by the officer taking the sample.

The figures given in Table 3 show the number of profiles stored on the NDNAD by police forces in England and Wales at 9 January 2009, broken down by gender. "Unassigned" means that the police officer who took the sample did not record the individual's gender.

Information on the religion of individuals whose profiles are stored on the NDNAD is not recorded.

The number of profiles is not the same as the number of individuals. This is because some of the profiles stored on the NDNAD are replicates. Replicate profiles arise when the same person has their profile loaded onto the NDNAD on more than one occasion (this may be because the person gave different names, or different versions of their name, on separate arrests, or because of upgrading of profiles). It is estimated that 13.3 per cent. of profiles held on the NDNAD are replicates and therefore the number of individuals on the NDNAD is approximately 13.3 per cent. less than the number of subject profiles; an estimate of the number of individuals in each category has been included in the tables. The presence of replicate profiles on the NDNAD does not impact on the effectiveness and integrity of the database.

Table 1: England and Wales profiles broken down by age (at 9 January 2009)

Current age	*Subject profiles*	*Estimated individuals*
Under 10[1]	[1]49	[1]42
10-15	131,353	113,883
16-17	200,597	173,918
18-20	453,821	393,463
21-24	729,674	632,627
25-34	1,563,022	1,355,140
35-44	1,104,436	957,546
45-54	610,289	529,121
55-64	248,339	215,310
65and over	98,971	85,808
Age unknown	389	337
Total	5,140,940	4,457,195

[1] Since these figures were obtained all profiles belonging to children aged under 10 have been deleted from the NDNAD (as at 5 March 2009).

Table 2: England and Wales profiles broken down by ethnic appearance (at 9 January 2009)

Ethnic appearance	*Subject profiles*	*Estimated individuals*
Unknown	297,673	258,082
Asian	282,397	244,838
Black	398,867	345,818
Chinese, Japanese other SE Asian	33,510	29,053
Middle Eastern	39,358	34,123
White—North European	3,989,622	3,459,002
White—South European	99,513	86,278
Total	5,140,940	4,457,195

Table 3: England and Wales profiles broken down by gender (at 9 January 2009)

Gender	*Subject profiles*	*Estimated individuals*
Male	4,039,500	3,502,247
Female	1,062,340	921,049
Unassigned	39,100	33,900
Total	5,140,940	4,457,195

Olympic Games 2012: Security

Tom Brake: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what discussions she has had with the Secretary of State for Defence on security arrangements for the London 2012 Olympics. [264328]

Mr. Coaker: The Home Office is working closely with the Ministry of Defence on security planning for the London 2012 games. The 2012 Olympic and Paralympic safety and security national concept of operations includes an expectation that the armed forces will provide some specialist support to the civilian authorities and we are proceeding on this basis

Tom Brake: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if she will hold discussions with her international counterparts on security arrangements for athletes and officials from their national teams at the London 2012 Olympics. [265564]

Mr. Coaker: The Olympic and Paralympic Games are international events with over 200 competing nations. We are very aware of the need to brief and consult the governments and public authorities of the countries involved, to ensure that their security concerns are reflected in our planning and delivery, and that our security arrangements have their confidence and co-operation.

We plan a comprehensive programme to engage the other competing countries specifically on Games safety and security issues in the run-up to and during the 2012 Games. This will complement and build on the extensive dialogue which we already have with overseas partners on counter-terrorism, combating crime, and safety and security matters.

Mr. Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent estimate she has made of the number of *(a)* police dog and handler teams and *(b)* specialist explosive search dogs which will be deployed to provide security for the London 2012 Olympics. [266418]

Mr. Coaker: On 25 February the Government approved a 2012 Olympic and Paralympic safety and security strategy and also endorsed an outline 2012 Olympic and Paralympic safety and security national concept of operations which describes how the strategy will be delivered. The workstreams which flow from the strategy and concept of operations have already highlighted the provision of police and search dogs and their handlers as an area in which demand will need to be managed carefully. Work to refine this requirement is ongoing.

Organised Crime

Mr. Dunne: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what plans the Government has to improve the effectiveness of tackling organised crime operating across police force borders. [266255]

Mr. Alan Campbell: We intend to build on the significant developments already accomplished in improving the police response to protective services in the round through the tri-partite Protective Services Improvement Programme. Particular emphasis has been placed on serious organised crime and the focus of that work has been above the level of individual police forces. We are continuing to support the ten Regional Intelligence Units, set up in each region to analyse, assess and develop information and intelligence held by police forces and other law enforcement agencies on serious organised crime; we are continuing to fund the work of the office of the National Co-ordinator for Serious Organised Crime, whose role includes ensuring that there is a co-ordinated response to cross-border serious organised crime across the country and that improvements needed in tackling cross-border organised crime are identified and addressed; and we are continuing to support and fund the work of the East Midlands Special Operations Unit—a region highlighted by Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary in 2005 as having significant needs in addressing serious organised crime. In addition to maintaining these resources, in 2009-10 we are will be match-funding pilots in the West Midlands and North West regions to build multi-agency serious organised crime capability to strengthen the operational response and build on existing collaboration in those regions. £1 million in matched funding will also be used to target forces with specific gaps in organised crime.

Recognising the need to improve co-ordination we have established the Organised Crime Partnership Board (OCPB), attended by senior representatives from the relevant organised crime law enforcement agencies, to provide the necessary strategic direction and co-ordination for a joint response to organised crime across the law enforcement and criminal justice community. The OCPB has agreed a unified programme of work and is sponsored by a cross-Governmental Ministerial Advisory Group to ensure that good progress is made in this vital area.

As part of HMIC's role as the explicit 'guarantor of the public interest', from 2009-10 it will continue to assess and review progress on improvements in all of the protective services and the inspectorate is separately conducting a review to identify the potential need and functionality of collaborative frameworks above force level for different policing functions such as organised crime.

Mr. Dunne: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what assessment her Department has made of the effectiveness of each police authority in tackling organised crime operating across police force borders. [266256]

Mr. Alan Campbell: As part of an examination of each of the protective services policing areas, we have asked Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary to conduct a thematic review into each police force's capability and capacity for dealing with serious organised crime. Its report is expected to be published in redacted form shortly. Her Majesty's Inspectorate has also conducted a review into the planning undertaken by forces and authorities for identifying gaps and making improvements in protective services, which includes serious organised crime, and the report 'Get Smart—Planning to Protect' is available on the Inspectorate's website at the following address:

www.inspectorates.homeoffice.gov.uk/hmic/inspections/thematic/psr-thematic-report/

Mr. Dunne: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what funding has been made available to each police authority to tackle organised crime operating across police force borders in each of the last 10 years. [266257]

Mr. Alan Campbell: The general police grant is provided to police authorities by the Home Office and allocated within each force to the different areas of policing. Serious organised crime is not funded separately. However central funding is provided to address this crime area above the force level. This includes running the Serious Organised Crime Agency for which funding has been £426 million in 2006-07, £445 million in 2007-08 and £474 million in 2008-09. £8 million of additional funding was also provided nationally in each of the years 2006-07 and 2007-08 to establish Regional Intelligence Units in each of the 10 ACPO regions in England and Wales and to strengthen the response to serious organised crime in the east midlands through the creation of a Special Operations Unit. In 2008-09 £5 million has been allocated for continuing support to the Regional Intelligence Units and £2 million to the east midlands Special Operations Unit. A number of protective services collaboration demonstrator projects, each involving more than one force area, have also received start-up funding since 2007-08 out of a £5 million budget, several of which include serious organised crime workstreams.

Passports

Mr. Chaytor: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what percentage of passport applications approved by the Post Office check and send service were subsequently rejected by the Passport Office in the last 12 months. [264786]

Mr. Malik: The Identity and Passport Service (IPS) does not reject applications that are incomplete or incorrect.

In the 12 months commencing March 2008, IPS received 2,523,230 applications via the Check & Send service provided by Post Office Limited. Of these, 1.68 per cent. (42,324) were identified as incomplete or incorrect upon receipt by IPS and required further action to allow the application to progress.

Police Stations: Closures

Paul Holmes: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many police stations closed permanently in *(a)* 2005-06, *(b)* 2006-07 and *(c)* 2007-08. [265891]

Mr. Coaker: The information requested is not held centrally. The management of the police estate and allocation of resources are matters for the police authority and chief constable for each force, who are responsible for assessing local needs.

Police: Accidents

Mr. Gray: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many accidents resulting in serious injuries or death involving members of the public and officers of *(a)* Wiltshire police and *(b)* the Metropolitan police in the course of their duties there were in each of the last 10 years. [264667]

Mr. Coaker: Figures collected by the Home Office show numbers of road traffic collisions involving police vehicles resulting from immediate/emergency response and police pursuits since 2002-03. They are shown in the following table.

Road traffic collisions involving police vehicles in emergency/pursuit involving injury by degree of injury and public/police personnel[3]

	Injury to			
	Members of public		Police personnel	
Financial year[1, 2]	Fatal injury	Serious injury	Fatal injury	Serious injury
2002-03				
Severity of injury	4	13	1	1
Metropolitan police	4	13	1	1
Wiltshire	0	0	0	0
2003-04				
Severity of injury	4	19	0	2
Metropolitan police	4	19	0	2
Wiltshire	0	0	0	0
2004-05				
Severity of injury	4	20	0	3
Metropolitan police	4	20	0	3
Wiltshire	0	0	0	0
2005-06				
Severity of injury	4	24	0	9
Metropolitan police	4	24	0	9
Wiltshire	0	0	0	0
2006-07				
Severity of injury	4	18	0	8
Metropolitan police	4	18	0	8
Wiltshire	0	0	0	0
2007-08				
Severity of injury	4	23	0	5
Metropolitan police	4	23	0	5
Wiltshire	0	1	0	2

[1] Data are unverified and therefore provided on a provisional basis only.
[2] Financial year runs from 1 April to 31 March in each of the given years.
[3] Data collected on behalf of HMIC since 2002-03.

Police: Coastal Areas

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what discussions her Department has had with chief constables on recognising *(a)* transience and *(b)* visitor numbers when allocating policing resources to seaside and coastal towns. [265494]

Mr. Coaker: I have regular meetings with chief constables and police authorities to discuss police resources. The impact of visitor numbers on police resources has previously been raised as part of those discussions.

The Police Allocation Formula Working Group is in the process of reviewing the police funding formula for the next CSR period (2011-12 to 2013-14). These issues will be considered by the group in the near future.

Police: Conduct

Mr. Gordon Prentice: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what her Department's policy is on persons convicted of an offence involving dishonesty while serving as a police officer; and if she will make a statement. [264978]

Mr. Coaker: Police officers are expected to demonstrate the highest level of personal and professional standards of behaviour. The Standards of Professional Behaviour contained in the Police (Conduct) Regulations 2008 reflect the expectations that the police service and the public have of how police officers should behave. Any breach of these standards may result in disciplinary action being taken, which in the most serious cases can result in dismissal from the service.

The National Policing Improvement Agency (NPIA) is responsible for national police recruitment standards. Home Office Circular 54/2003 outlines the policy which is used to assess each application. Each case is considered on its merits and eligibility will depend on the nature and circumstances of the offence. Applicants must declare on application whether or not they have any convictions or cautions, spent or otherwise. Responsibility and decisions for vetting lie with the individual police.

Police: Manpower

Mr. Ancram: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many commissioned police officers there were in England in *(a)* 2007-08 and *(b)* 1996-97. [265310]

Mr. Coaker: Information on police numbers is published annually in the Home Office Statistical Bulletin series 'Police Service Strength, England and Wales'. The bulletins are available in the Library of the House, and can be downloaded from the publications link within the Research Development and Statistics directorate website located at:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pubsstatistical.html

There were 132,313 full-time equivalent police officers in the 39 forces in England as at 31 March 2008, compared to 118,455 as at 31 March 1997.

Police: Protection

Mr. Ancram: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many police officers in England were engaged in personal protection duties on the latest date for which figures are available. [265294]

Mr. Coaker: I refer the hon. Member to my reply of 5 March 2009, *Official Report*, column 1779W.

Proceeds of Crime

Mr. Dunne: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what steps she is taking to improve rates of enforcement of payment under court asset confiscation orders made under the Proceeds of Crime Act 2002. [266251]

Mr. Alan Campbell: We have taken a number of steps to improve the enforcement of confiscation orders. For example, we issued a 'Best Practice Guide to Confiscation Order Enforcement' to all relevant agencies and set up a new database to monitor and provide management information on confiscation performance. We set up a multi-agency enforcement task force for two years ending 2005-06; their work was subsequently subsumed by HM Courts Service and other enforcement agencies. HM Courts Service have established nine dedicated regional confiscation units, two of which have been co-located with the Home Office-funded regional asset recovery teams. The enforcement of Crown Prosecution Service confiscation orders for which CPS branches have lead enforcement responsibility is co-ordinated on a group basis, so as to benefit from economies of scale and to encourage the development and optimum use of specialist enforcement skills. In addition, the prosecution agencies and other bodies are making greater use of restraint orders.

We are giving the police and other bodies new powers in the Policing and Crime Bill to enable them to seize and detain assets at the earliest opportunity, subject to judicial oversight, to prevent criminals trying to hide them or otherwise dispose of them in anticipation of a confiscation order. We are also giving the authorities powers in the Bill to sell seized property to satisfy a confiscation order. These new measures will help to further improve confiscation enforcement rates.

Mr. Dunne: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much has been paid under court asset confiscation orders made under the Proceeds of Crime Act 2002 in each year since its introduction. [266252]

Mr. Alan Campbell: The total net value of confiscation orders paid under the Proceeds of Crime Act 2002 or earlier legislation in each year since 2003-04 is as follows:

	£ million
2003-04	38.8
2004-05	54.4
2005-06	61.3
2006-07	77.8
2007-08	96.3

In addition to confiscation orders, the Proceeds of Crime Act makes provision for the seizure and forfeiture of cash that is the proceeds of crime or is intended for use in crime. The Act also provides for the civil recovery of the proceeds of crime. Law enforcement and prosecution agencies have recovered additional sums using these powers.

Mr. Dunne: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many court asset confiscation orders made under the Proceeds of Crime Act 2002 in each year since its introduction. [266253]

Mr. Alan Campbell: The number of confiscation orders made by the courts in England, Wales and Northern Ireland under the Proceeds of Crime Act 2002, and earlier legislation, since the Act came into force is as follows:

	Number
2003-04	1,497
2004-05	2,519
2005-06	3,807
2006-07	4,116
2007-08	4,903

Prostitution

Lynne Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer of 11 March 2009, *Official Report*, columns 468-9W, on prostitution, what changes were made to the Policing and Crime Bill as a result of the responses received. [266403]

Mr. Alan Campbell: The responses to the Home Office's letter of 26 September were received before the introduction of the Policing and Crime Bill. The responses expressed a range of views, which were taken into consideration in conjunctions with the findings of the Government's 'Tackling the Demand for Prostitution: A Review' and contributed as part of this process to the development of measures of clauses 13,14, 18,19 and 20 of the Policing and Crime Bill.

Right of Search: Computers

Mr. Laurence Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department under what circumstances the police may search home computers without warrants; whether she plans to extend the circumstances in which such searches may take place; what requirements there are on the police to render computers secure following such searches; and if she will make a statement. [248489]

Mr. Coaker *[holding answer 19 January 2009]:* If an officer is lawfully on any premises with consent or under a warrant or for the purposes of making an arrest, he can require information stored in any electronic form and accessible from the premises that could be used in evidence, to be provided in a form which he can take away or from which it can be readily produced. The issue of security is a matter for the person requested to provide the information.

Terrorism: Detainees

Mr. Ancram: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many cases of detention without charge for over 21 days on suspicion of terrorist activity there have been in England since October 2008. [265313]

Mr. Coaker: Since October 2008 there have been no cases of detention without charge for over 21 days on suspicion of terrorist activity in England.

Terrorism: Somalia

Mr. Ancram: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what proportion of arrests on terrorist charges involved persons of Somali origin *(a)* in the latest period for which figures are available and *(b)* in the comparable period five years earlier. [265314]

Mr. Coaker: The information requested is not held. The Home Office science research group will be publishing a statistical bulletin on terrorism arrests and outcomes. This will provide detail on terrorism related charges and convictions, providing a breakdown of specific offences. The bulletin will show the numbers of people charged and convicted and the charge to conviction ratio. This information will not be broken down by country of origin. The bulletin is due to be published shortly.

WOMEN AND EQUALITY

Equal Pay

Julie Morgan: To ask the Minister for Women and Equality what steps the Government is taking to reduce the time taken to hear equal pay cases at employment tribunals. [265718]

Bridget Prentice: I have been asked to reply.

A significant number of equal pay cases involve complex issues which have to be addressed prior to dealing with the merits of the claim and this can make them more protracted than other employment cases. On a number of issues, employment tribunals have been obliged to wait for the outcome of appeals to the Employment Appeal Tribunal and, in some cases, to the Court of Appeal or Court of Session (in Scotland), before being able to progress them further. It is important that parties are able to exercise their legal rights by raising such issues which they consider relevant in the pursuit or defence of a case or group of cases. Many of these issues have affected very large numbers of cases.

Case management of equal pay cases is the responsibility of the judiciary. However, specialist employment judges are actively engaged in this process. This includes working with parties on an ongoing basis to ensure that case grouping is effective and expeditious.

NORTHERN IRELAND

Crimes of Violence

Mr. Gregory Campbell: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many incidents of hate crime were recorded in Northern Ireland in *(a)* 2005 and *(b)* 2008. [267387]

Paul Goggins: This is an operational matter for the Chief Constable. I have asked him to reply directly to the hon. Member, and a copy of his letter will be placed in the Library of the House.

Departmental Internet

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland pursuant to the answer to my hon. Friend the Member for Welwyn, Hatfield (Grant Shapps) of 3 February 2009, *Official Report*, columns 988-90W, on the departmental internet, how many hits each of the websites maintained by his Department received in each of the last 12 months. [262780]

Mr. Woodward: The number of hits each of the websites maintained by my Department received in each of the last 12 months is shown in the following table.

Month	*Youth Justice Agency (youthjusticeagencyni.gov.uk)*	*Northern Ireland Prison Service (niprisionservice.gov.uk)*	*Organised Crime Task Force (octf.gov.uk)*
February 2009	88258	1045255	50245
January 2009	104992	1144841	60020
December 2008	63555	1048704	55750
November 2008	[1]n/a	910863	61796
October 2008	89133	995649	63891
September 2008	87200	895712	58327
August 2008	70935	1438674	63271
July 2008	81974	1486028	69260
June 2008	78819	703248	63059
May 2008	94164	695383	61091
April 2008	88663	736815	62760
March 2008	44026	731811	54530

[1] November figures not available due to a reporting problem.

Departmental Marketing

Mr. Paterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland pursuant to the answer of 5 February 2009, *Official Report*, column 1415W, on departmental marketing, for what reason the average expenditure increased in the year 2007-08. [257273]

Mr. Woodward: The additional expenditure in 2007-08 relates primarily to the Fireworks Safety Campaign and the public appointment of a new Police Ombudsman for Northern Ireland.

The Northern Ireland Office's procurement policy includes provisions to achieve best value for money in procurement of goods and other services.

Departmental Sick Leave

Norman Lamb: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many staff in his Department were on sick leave for *(a)* over 30 days, *(b)* over 50 days and *(c)* over 100 days in each of the last five years. [256330]

Paul Goggins: The following table details the number of staff within the Northern Ireland Office who have had periods of absence for *(a)* 30-days and over, *(b)* 50-days and over and *(c)* 100-days and over in each of the last five years for which figures are available.

	30-days and over	*50-days and over*	*100-days and over*
1 April 2008 to 21 November 2008	110	72	27
1 April 2007 to 31 March 2008	137	99	40
1 April 2006 to 31 March 2007	143	91	38
1 April 2005 to 31 March 2006	128	74	30
1 April 2004 to 31 March 2005	118	73	32

Norman Lamb: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many staff in his Department were recorded as having been on sick leave for over 12 months on 31 December in each of the last five years. [256625]

Paul Goggins: The following table details the number of staff in the Northern Ireland Office recorded as having had a period of absence of over 12 months on 31 December in each of the last five years for which figures are available.

As at December each year	*Number*
2004	0
2005	1
2006	2
2007	1

Firearms: Licensing

Lady Hermon: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many members of the security services in Northern Ireland have had *(a)* a personal protection firearm licence revoked and *(b)* an application for a personal protection firearm licence refused in each of the last 12 months; and what assessment he has made of the level of security threat to members of the security services in the same period. [266573]

Paul Goggins: That is an operational matter for the Chief Constable. I have asked him to reply directly to the hon. Lady and a copy of his letter will be placed in the Library of the House.

Mr. Gregory Campbell: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many owners of personal protection weapons in Northern Ireland had their renewal applications *(a)* approved and *(b)* declined in 2008. [267388]

Paul Goggins: That is an operational matter for the Chief Constable. I have asked him to reply directly to the hon. Member, and a copy of his letter will be placed in the Library of the House.

Police Service of Northern Ireland: Recruitment

Mr. Gregory Campbell: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what percentage of the Police Service of Northern Ireland was Roman Catholic as at 1 January 2009. [267390]

Paul Goggins: That is an operational matter for the Chief Constable. I have asked him to reply directly to the hon. Member, and a copy of his letter will be placed in the Library of the House.

Prisoners: Per Capita Costs

Mr. Gregory Campbell: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what the actual cost per prisoner place in Northern Ireland was in 2008-09; and what target cost per prisoner place was set for that year. [267391]

Paul Goggins: The outturn cost per prisoner place in 2008-09 will be contained in the annual audited and published agency accounts. The target for 2008-09 is £81,500; the Prison Service anticipates the target will be met.

Public Opinion

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how much his Department and its agencies have spent on *(a)* opinion polling, *(b)* focus groups and *(c)* other forms of market research in each year since 1997; if he will list the surveys commissioned; and what the purpose was of each. [261207]

Paul Goggins: Information on how much the Northern Ireland Office and its agencies have spent on *(a)* opinion polling, *(b)* focus groups and *(c)* other forms of market research is provided in the following tables. I have also listed the surveys commissioned and what the purpose was of each.

The information is not available for each year since 1997, it has been provided for each year since 2003.

2003-04

	£
Opinion polling	340,317.00
Focus groups	27,480.00
Other market research	0

Surveys Commissioned and the purpose of each:

Commissioned questions for NI Omnibus survey - to obtain public perception of Public Prosecution Service which in turn assists in the development of policy.

NI Crime survey—to ascertain people's experience and perceptions of crime in NI.

International Crime Victimisation Survey—to assess how many people have been victims of crime.

NI Omnibus Survey—Recovery of assets module—to ascertain people's awareness of Assets Recovery Agency and perceptions of its effectiveness.

NI Omnibus Survey—Confidence in the Criminal Justice System Module—to assess people's confidence of the Criminal Justice System.

Victim and Witness Views on the Criminal Justice System.

Community Attitudes Survey—assessment of criminal justice issues as they relate to the two main communities in NI.

Compensation Agency Applicants' Attitudes Survey.

Confidence in the Criminal Justice System—obtain views of the public.

2004-05

	£
Opinion polling	180,158.00
Focus groups	8,025.00
Other market research	0

Surveys Commissioned and the purpose of each:

Commissioned questions for NI Omnibus survey—to obtain public perception of Public Prosecution Service which in turn assists in the development of policy.

NI Crime Survey—to ascertain people's experience and perceptions of crime in NI.

International Crime Victimisation Survey—to assess how many people have been victims of crime.

NI Omnibus Survey—Organised Crime Module - to ascertain people's experience and perceptions of Organised Crime.

NI Omnibus Survey—Youth Justice Agency module—to ascertain people's awareness of the Youth Justice Agency and perceptions of its effectiveness.

Compensation Agency Applicants' Attitudes Survey.

Confidence in the Criminal Justice System—obtain view of the public.

2005-06

	£
Opinion polling	361,340.00
Focus groups	0
Other market research	0

Surveys Commissioned and the purpose of each:

Northern Ireland Information Service Poll—to gauge public view on the political process.

Commissioned questions for NI Omnibus survey—to obtain public perception of Public Prosecution Service which in turn assists in the development of policy.

NI Crime Survey—to ascertain people's experience and perceptions of crime in NI.

NI Omnibus Survey—Organised Crime Module—to ascertain people's experience and perceptions of Organised Crime.

NI Omnibus Survey—Recovery of Assets Module—to ascertain people's awareness of Assets Recovery Agency and perceptions of its effectiveness.

NI Omnibus Survey—Confidence in the Criminal Justice System Module—to assess people's confidence of the Criminal Justice System.

NI Omnibus Survey—Confidence in Police Module—to assess people's confidence of the police.

NI Omnibus Survey—Sexual Violence Module—perceptions and assessment of sexual violence in NI.

2006-07

	£
Opinion polling	399,328.00
Focus groups	0
Other market research	0

Surveys Commissioned and the purpose of each:

Northern Ireland Information Service Poll—to gauge public view on the political process.

Commissioned questions for NI Omnibus survey—to obtain public perception of Public Prosecution Service which in turn assists in the development of policy.

NI Crime Survey—to ascertain people's experience and perceptions of crime in NI.

NI Omnibus Survey—Organised Crime Module—to ascertain people's experience and perceptions of Organised Crime.

NI Omnibus Survey—Recovery of Assets Module—to ascertain people's awareness of Assets Recovery Agency and perceptions of its effectiveness.

Compensation Agency Applicants' Attitudes Survey.

Public Attitudes towards Sex Offenders.

2007-08

	£
Opinion polling	397,145.00
Focus groups	1,828.37
Other market research	0

Surveys Commissioned and the purpose of each:

Northern Ireland Information Service Poll—to gauge public view on the political process.

Commissioned questions for NI Omnibus survey—to obtain public perception of Public Prosecution Service which in turn assists in the development of policy.

NI Crime Survey—to ascertain people's experience and perceptions of crime in NI.

NI Omnibus Survey—Organised Crime Module—to ascertain people's experience and perceptions of Organised Crime.

NI Omnibus Survey—Recovery of Assets Module—to ascertain people's awareness of Assets Recovery Agency and perceptions of its effectiveness.

NI Omnibus Survey—Youth Justice Agency module—to ascertain people's awareness of the Youth Justice Agency and perceptions of its effectiveness

2008-09

	£
Opinion polling	46,069.29
Focus groups	0
Other market research	0

Surveys Commissioned and the purpose of each:

Northern Ireland Information Service Poll—to gauge public view on the political process.

Commissioned questions for NI Omnibus survey—to obtain public perception of Public Prosecution Service which in turn assists in the development of policy.

Customer Satisfaction Survey—to analyse the performance of the Compensation Agency.

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Buncefield

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether she has made an assessment of the implications of the Major Incident Investigation Board report on Buncefield for land use planning policy. [266658]

Mr. Iain Wright: As indicated in the written statement made by Lord McKenzie on 13 November 2008, *Official Report, House of Lords*, column WS55, the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (CLG) will lead Government consideration of the Major Incident Investigation Board report (MIIB), "Recommendations on land use planning and the control of societal risk around major hazard sites", published on 15 July last year. She will respond substantively on behalf of the Government in due course.

Communities and Local Government (CLG) have appointed consultants to investigate and explain the operation of the legislation controlling the planning application and hazardous substances consent processes, and to consider the scope for rationalisation and possible integration of these regimes. This project will inform the Government's response to the MIIB report, in particular recommendation one, which calls for a cross-government and wide-ranging review of the land use planning system around major hazard sites in Britain.

In undertaking this project, CLG will work closely with the Health and Safety Executive, the devolved administrations, representatives of local authorities, and industry. The research will take six months to complete.

Community Relations

Patrick Mercer: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government with reference to the answer to the right hon. Member for Leicester, East (Keith Vaz), of 18 June 2008, *Official Report*, column 947W, on community relations: extremism, what projects *(a)* were implemented in 2007-08 and *(b)* will have been implemented in 2008-09 to support institutions or individuals vulnerable to radicalisation under the Prevent strand of Project Contest. [263168]

Mr. Coaker: I have been asked to reply.

The following projects were implemented to support institutions or individuals vulnerable to radicalisation in 2007-08:

Two police-led local multi-agency initiatives.

One directly-funded intervention project.

The following projects are being or will have been implemented to support institutions or individuals vulnerable to radicalisation in 2008-09:

Eight projects supporting schools and further and higher education institutions.

13 police-led projects aimed at delivering Objectives 2&3 of the Prevent Strategy.

40 projects across the youth justice estate

Two directly-funded intervention projects

Nine police-led local multi-agency initiatives

Guidance on ethical considerations when undertaking research into extremism.

Domestic Waste: Waste Disposal

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer to my hon. Friend the Member for Bromley and Chislehurst (Robert Neill) of 2 February 2009, *Official Report*, column 974W, on waste management: South East, what guidance the Waste Improvement Network has given to local authorities on the collection of household waste. [262694]

Jane Kennedy: I have been asked to reply.

The Waste Improvement Network (WIN) has been developed by the Improvement and Efficiency South East (IESE) to bring together waste management information and to support local authorities in procurement and decision making. IESE is one of nine Regional Improvement and Efficiency Partnerships (RIEPs) which support local government efficiency and improvement.

WIN does not provide direct advice. It provides information, including case studies and reports on activity in and experiences of councils around the country. This helps to ensure councils are up to date on what other councils are doing and able to learn from one another's experiences.

Homes and Communities Agency: Finance

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what funds were *(a)* allocated to and *(b)* drawn down by the Homes and Communities Agency and its predecessors in each of the last five years expressed in (i) cash terms and (ii) 2008-09 prices. [265081]

Margaret Beckett: I refer the hon. Member to my reply of 19 January 2009, *Official Report*, columns 1076-77W, on the 2008-09 budget for the Homes and Communities Agency (HCA).

The predecessor bodies for the HCA were English Partnerships (consisting of the Urban Regeneration Agency and the Commission for New Towns), the (investment arm of the) Housing Corporation, and the Academy for Sustainable Communities. A range of departmental programmes also transferred to the Agency.

The funds allocated to Departmental programmes, to English Partnerships (via the Urban Regeneration Agency), the Housing Corporation and the Academy since 2005-06, can be found in the main supply and supplementary estimates. Information on departmental programme spending over the last five years has been published in departmental annual reports. The last five years' spending figures for English Partnerships and the Corporation can be found in their published annual report and accounts each year; spending by the academy was consolidated within the annual report and accounts of its parent organisation, Yorkshire Forward. Government uses the GDP deflator to allow for the effects of changes in prices. This can be found on HM Treasury's website at:

http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/data_gdp_index.htm

Housing Associations: Finance

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many representations she has received from housing associations on their financial position in each of the last three years; and if she will make a statement. [266485]

Mr. Iain Wright: The information requested is not held centrally and could only be provided at disproportionate cost.

Housing Stock

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) what the net change in local authority housing stock was in each year since 1997; [265078]

(2) how many homes from local authority housing stock were disposed of in each year since 1997. [265079]

Mr. Iain Wright: Information on the amount of local authority owned housing stock is collected from local authorities on the Housing Strategy Statistical Appendix (HSSA) return. This information is published on the Communities and Local Government website in Table 116:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/documents/housing/xls/140882.xls

The annual net changes in local authority housing stocks in each year since 1 April 1997 are shown in the following table.

Net change in local authority housing stock: England, 1997 to 2008

	Net change
1997-98	-91,000
1998-99	-132,000
1999-2000	-166,000
2000-01	-200,000
2001-02	-106,000
2002-03	-249,000
2003-04	-122,000
2004-05	-169,000
2005-06	-78,000
2006-07	-100,000
2007-08	-117,000

Notes:
1. Net change is measured between the figure for housing stock at 1 April each year.
2. Figures are rounded to the nearest thousand.
Source:
Housing Strategy Statistical Appendix (HSSA)

Information on disposals of local authority stock can be estimated from information on Right to Buy, other local authority sales, large-scale voluntary transfers and small scale transfers to registered social landlords, and demolitions.

Information on all sales of local authority stock (including large-scale voluntary transfers and small scale transfers to registered social landlords, Right to Buy sales and other local authority sales) is collected from local authorities on the Quarterly Housing Monitoring (P1B) return. This information is published on the Communities and Local Government website in Table 674:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/documents/housing/xls/table-674.xls

Information on local authority demolitions is reported by local authorities, for the financial year, on the Business Plan Statistical Appendix (BPSA) return.

Disposals of local authority housing stocks in each financial year since 1997-98 are shown in the following table.

Local authority stock disposals: England, 1997 to 2008

	Right to Buy sales[1]	*Other sales*[1]	*Transfers to registered social landlords*[1]	*Demolitions*[2]
1997-98	41,330	750	35,700	8,810
1998-99	40,270	820	76,540	8,720
1999-00	54,250	710	96,760	10,020
2000-01	52,380	630	132,460	13,870
2001-02	51,970	490	35,690	14,500
2002-03	63,390	760	165,980	11,050
2003-04	69,580	410	39,220	8,490
2004-05	49,980	390	101,580	8,450
2005-06	26,660	290	48,440	6,250
2006-07	16,900	500	78,790	4,650
2007-08	11,960	300	94,220	5,100

Notes:

1. Figures are rounded to the nearest hundred.
2. Demolition data between 1997-98 and 1999-2000 were collected via the Housing Investment Programme Annual Plan (HIPAP). Between 2001-02 and 2007-08 data were collected via the BPSA. Data from the HIPAP may not be as reliable as data from the BPSA.

Sources:

1. Quarterly Housing Monitoring (PI B) for information on Right to Buy, Other sales and Transfers to Registered Social Landlords.
2. Business Ran Statistical Appendix (BPSA) for information on demolitions.

Net changes in stock (table 1) may not be wholly consistent with the sum of stock disposals (table 2) due to different data sources and collection methods, and because net changes to stock also include additions.

Local Government: Elections

Andrew Selous: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much was paid to electoral returning officers across the UK in respect of the elections held in May 2008; whether these payments were mandatory; and if she will make a statement. [266152]

John Healey: Payments to electoral returning officers for local government elections are a matter for local authorities. Under section 36(4) of the Representation of the People Act 1983, all expenditure properly incurred by a returning officer in relation to the holding of a local council election must be paid by that council. The information requested is therefore not held centrally.

Mortgages: Government Assistance

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many staff in her Department have been assigned to work on the *(a)* implementation and *(b)* administration of the (i) Mortgage Rescue Scheme and (ii) Homeowner Mortgage Support Scheme. [266314]

Margaret Beckett: Three members of the Department's staff are working on implementation and administration of the Mortgage Rescue scheme. Four members of the Department's staff are working on implementation of the Homeowners Mortgage Support scheme. Once the scheme is launched, administration will be delivered through an external delivery body in partnership with the core team.

Multiple Occupation

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government which local authorities have *(a)* applied for, *(b)* been granted and *(c)* been refused (i) additional and (ii) selective houses in multiple occupation licensing powers. [266744]

Mr. Iain Wright: One local authority, Peterborough city council, has been granted approval to operate an additional licensing scheme for houses in multiple occupation under the Housing Act 2004. The Department is currently considering applications for additional licensing schemes from Oxford city council, London borough of Hounslow and Breckland district council.

The following local authorities have been granted approval to operate selective licensing schemes for privately rented property under the Housing Act 2004:

Salford City Council
Middlesbrough Borough Council
Manchester City Council (Three Schemes)
Gateshead Borough Council
Sedgefield Borough Council
Burnley Borough Council
Bolton Borough Council
Blackburn with Darwen Borough Council (Two Schemes)
Easington District Council
Hartlepool Borough Council

The Department is currently considering further applications for selective licensing schemes from Salford city council and Manchester city council.

We invite local authorities to work with CLG officials in the development of their proposals so that the applications when submitted are consistent with published criteria. This has meant that the Secretary of State has not refused any applications.

Non-Domestic Rates: Small Businesses

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if she will review the methodology for *(a)* calculation and *(b)* distribution of small business rate relief for the purposes of harmonising the mechanisms used in England and Wales. [266265]

John Healey: A business is eligible for small business rate relief if its sole or main property has a rateable value of less than £15,000 (or £21,500 in Greater London); and each additional property it occupies, if any, has a rateable value of no more than £2,200; and the total rateable value of all of its properties is less than £15,000 (£21,500 in Greater London).

The current eligibility criteria targets rate relief to small businesses and excludes low value properties occupied by larger concerns so that small business rate relief is targeted on businesses that most need it.

Private Rented Housing: Disadvantaged

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what proportion of vulnerable people in each vulnerability group lived in decent private sector homes in each year since 2002; and what estimate she has made of the proportion doing so in 2008-09. [264984]

Mr. Iain Wright: The English House Condition Survey has published estimates of the proportion of vulnerable households living in decent private sector homes since 2001. Available figures are provided in the following table. The Decent Homes standard was updated in 2006 when the introduction of the Housing Health and Safety Rating System replaced the Fitness Standard as the statutory tool for assessing housing conditions. Figures based on the updated definition from 2006 are not comparable with those based on the original definition. An estimate for 2008 will be published in 2010.

Percentage of private sector vulnerable households living in decent homes

	Decent homes standard:	
	Original definition	*Updated definition*
2001	57.3	—
2003	62.8	—
2004	65.5	—
2005	66.1	—
2006	67.7	58.8
2007	—	61.0

Note:
Vulnerable households are those in receipt of principal means tested and disability related benefits. There is no estimate for 2002.
Source:
English House Condition Survey

CHILDREN, SCHOOLS AND FAMILIES

Children In Care

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many children in care in 2008 had had more than *(a)* three, *(b)* five, *(c)* 10, *(d)* 20, *(e)* 30, *(f)* 40 and *(g)* 50 foster placements whilst in care. [258346]

Beverley Hughes: Informatio[illegible]e number of children who were in care in 2008 who had more than *(a)* three, *(b)* five, *(c)* 10, *(d)* 20, *(e)* 30, *(f)* 40 and *(g)* 50 foster placements while they were in care in England is shown in the following table.

Children who were looked after during the year ending 31 March 2008 by the number of foster placements since they started to be looked after[1, 2, 3, 4], year ending 31 March 2008—Coverage: England

	Number
More than	*Number of foster placements during time in care*
3	15,000
5	6,400
10	1,200
20	150
30	30
40	20
50	10

[1] Source: SSDA903 return on children looked after.

[2] Figures shown are cumulative.

[3] The number of foster placements excludes any episodes of care where children were looked after under an agreed series of short term placements.

[4] To ensure that no individual can be identified from statistical tables, we use conventions for the rounding and suppression of very small numbers. National figures have been rounded to the nearest 100 if they exceed 1,000 or to the nearest 10 otherwise.

Source:
SSDA903

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many children at each age of first being taken into care who left care in 2008 had had more than *(a)* three, *(b)* five, *(c)* 10, *(d)* 20, *(e)* 30, *(f)* 40 and *(g)* 50 foster placements whilst they were in care. [258651]

Beverley Hughes: Information on the number of children of each age of first being taken into care who left care in 2008 who had more than *(a)* three, *(b)* five, *(c)* 10, *(d)* 20, *(e)* 30, *(f)* 40 and *(g)* 50 foster placements while they were in care in England can be provided only at a disproportionate cost.

Departmental Public Appointments

Julia Goldsworthy: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families which former *(a)* hon. Members who left Parliament since 1997 and *(b)* Members of the House of Lords from each party have been appointed to positions on public bodies within his Department's responsibility; and who made each appointment. [267541]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: This information is not held centrally. Information on board membership and remuneration is published in individual bodies' annual reports and accounts.

Departmental Public Expenditure

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what *(a)* capital funds and *(b)* resource funds his Department has brought forward from its (i) 2009-10 and (ii) 2010-11 budgets for use in (A) 2008-09 and (B) 2009-10; and what schemes this funding is being used to support. [267418]

Jim Knight: Department for Children Schools and Families have identified:

(a) Nil amounts to be brought forward to be spent in 2008-09.

(b) Up to £927.5 million to be brought forward from the 2010-11 financial year to the 2009-10 financial year as provided in the table:

Programme	*Capital amount*	*Resource amount*	*£ 000* *Total*
Primary Capital Strategy	76,149	0	76,149
City Technology College	147	0	147
Locally Co-ordinated Voluntary Aided Programmes	50,684	0	50,684
Devolved Formula Capital -Voluntary Aided Schools	72,325	0	72,325
Devolved Formula Capital	311,565	0	311,565
Local Authority Modernisation	234,523	0	234,523
Targeted Capital—14-19 Diplomas and Special Educational Needs	142,526	0	142,526
Devolved Formula Capital-Academies	5,195	0	5,195
Devolved Formula Capital-Non Maintained Special Schools	886	0	886
Playing Opportunities	30,000	2,500	32,500
Total	924,000	2,500	927,500

Education: Per Capita Costs

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) how much his Department and its predecessor spent per pupil in secondary education in *(a)* Castle Point and *(b)* Essex in each of the last five years; and if he will make a statement; [267057]

(2) how much his Department and its predecessor spent per pupil in primary education in *(a)* Castle Point and *(b)* Essex in each of the last five years; and if he will make a statement. [267058]

Jim Knight: The Department allocates education funding to Local authorities so the requested information for Castle Point constituency is not available. In addition it is for local authorities to determine how they spend their funds locally. The per pupil revenue funding figures for primary and secondary schools pupils for England and Essex local authority in 2004-05 and 2005-06 are as follows. These figures are in real terms:

Real terms revenue funding per pupil—EFS plus grants

		England	*£* *Essex*
Primary pupils (3-10 years)	2004-05	3,850	3,740
	2005-06	4,000	3,920
Secondary pupils (11-15 years)	2004-05	4,830	4,710
	2005-06	5,020	4,840

Notes:

1. Price Base: Real terms at 2007-08 prices, based on GDP deflators as at 25 November 2008
2. Figures reflect relevant sub-blocks of education formula spending (EFS) settlements and include the pensions transfer to EFS.
3. Total funding also includes all revenue grants in DfES departmental expenditure limits relevant to pupils aged 3-15 and exclude education maintenance allowances (EMAs) and grants not allocated at LEA level.
4. The pupil numbers used to convert £ million figures to £ per pupil are those underlying the EFS settlement calculations.
5. Rounding: Figures are rounded to the nearest £10.
6. Status: Some of the grant allocations have not been finalised. If these do change, the effect on the funding figures is expected to be minimal.

The revenue per pupil figures shown in the table below are taken from the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) which was introduced in April 2006. They are not comparable with those for the years 2004-05 to 2005-06 because the introduction of the DSG in 2006-07 fundamentally changed how local authorities are funded.

The 2004-05 to 2005-06 figures are based on education formula spending (EFS) which formed the education part of the Local Government Finance Settlement, plus various grants. This was an assessment of what local authorities needed to fund education rather than what they spent. The DSG is based largely on an authority's previous spending. In addition, the DSG has a different coverage to EFS. EFS comprised a schools block and an LEA block (to cover LEA central functions) whereas DSG only covers the school block. LEA block items are still funded through DCLG's Local Government Finance Settlement but education items cannot be separately identified. Consequently, there is a break in the Department's time series as the two sets of data are not comparable.

To provide a comparison for 2006-07 DSG, the Department have isolated the schools block equivalent funding in 2005-06; as described above this does not represent the totality of 'education' funding in that year.

The per pupil revenue funding figures for years 2005-06 (baseline) to 2008-09 for England and Essex local authority are provided in the following table. As the DSG is a mechanism for distributing funding, a split between primary and secondary schools is not available. The figures below are for all funded pupils aged 3-19 and are in real terms:

Real terms revenue funding per pupil—DSG plus grants

All pupils (3-19 years)	*England*	*£* *Essex*
2005-06 (baseline)	4,230	4,030
2006-07	4,370	4,150
2007-08	4,530	4,290
2008-09	4,550	4,310

Notes:

1. This covers funding through the Dedicated Schools Grant, School Standards Grant, School Standards Grant (Personalisation) and Standards Fund as well as funding from the Learning and Skills Council; it excludes grants which are not allocated at LA level.
2. Price Base: Real terms at 2007-08 prices, based on GDP deflators as at 25 November 2008.
3. These figures are for all funded pupils aged 3-19.
4. Figures have been rounded to the nearest £10.
5. Some of the grant allocations have not been finalised. If these do change, the effect on the funding figures is expected to be minimal.

Mr. Newmark: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) how much his Department spent on average per pupil in primary education in *(a)* Braintree constituency, *(b)* Essex and *(c)* England in each of the last five years; [266331]

(2) how much on average his Department spent per pupil in secondary education in *(a)* Braintree constituency, *(b)* Essex and *(c)* England in each of the last five years. [266342]

Jim Knight: The Department allocates education funding to local authorities so the requested information for Braintree constituency is not available. In addition it is for local authorities to determine how they spend their funds locally. The per pupil revenue funding figures for primary and secondary schools pupils for England and Essex local authority in 2004-05 and 2005-06 are as follows. These figures are in real terms:

Real terms revenue funding per pupil (£)—EFS plus grants

	England	*Essex*
Primary pupils (3-10 years)		
2004-05	3,850	3,740
2005-06	4,080	3,920
Secondary pupils (11-15 years)		
2004-05	4,830	4,710
2005-06	5,020	4,840

Notes:
1. Price Base: Real terms at 2007-08 prices, based on GDP deflators as at 25 November 2008.
2. Figures reflect relevant sub-blocks of Education Formula Spending (EFS) settlements and include the pensions transfer to EFS.
3. Total funding also includes all revenue grants in DfES departmental expenditure limits relevant to pupils aged three-15 and exclude education maintenance allowances (EMAs) and grants not allocated at LEA level.
4. The pupil numbers used to convert £ million figures to £ per pupil are those underlying the EFS settlement calculations.
5. Rounding: Figures are rounded to the nearest £10.
6. Status: Some of the grant allocations have not been finalised. If these do change, the effect on the funding figures is expected to be minimal.

The revenue per pupil figures shown in the following table are taken from the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) which was introduced in April 2006. They are not comparable with those for the years 2004-05 to 2005-06 because the introduction of the DSG in 2006-07 fundamentally changed how local authorities are funded.

The 2004-05 to 2005-06 figures are based on Education Formula Spending (EFS) which formed the education part of the Local Government Finance Settlement, plus various grants. This was an assessment of what local authorities needed to fund education rather than what they spent. The DSG is based largely on an authority's previous spending. In addition, the DSG has a different coverage to EFS. EFS comprised a schools block and an LEA block (to cover LEA central functions) whereas DSG only covers the school block. LEA block items are still funded through DCLG's Local Government Finance Settlement but education items cannot be separately identified. Consequently, there is a break in the Department's time series as the two sets of data are not comparable.

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The per pupil revenue funding figures for years 2005-06 (baseline) to 2008-09 for England and Essex local authority are provided in the following table. As the DSG is a mechanism for distributing funding, a split between primary and secondary schools is not available. The figures below are for all funded pupils aged three-19 and are in real terms:

Real terms revenue funding per pupil (£)—DSG plus grants

All pupils (three-19 years)	*England*	*Essex*
2005-06 (baseline)	4,230	4,030
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2007-08	4,530	4,290
2008-09	4,550	4,310

Notes:
1. This covers funding through the Dedicated Schools Grant, School Standards Grant, School Standards Grant (Personalisation) and Standards Fund as well as funding from the Learning and Skills Council; it excludes grants which are not allocated at LA level.
2. Price Base: Real terms at 2007-08 prices, based on GDP deflators as at 25 November 2008.
3. These figures are for all funded pupils aged three-19 years.
4. Figures have been rounded to the nearest £10
5. Some of the grant allocations have not been finalised. If these do change, the effect on the funding figures is expected to be minimal.

National Safeguarding Delivery Unit

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) when he expects the National Safeguarding Delivery Unit to *(a)* establish and *(b)* publish timescales for the implementation of Lord Laming's recommendations; [264377]

(2) when he expects the National Safeguarding Delivery Unit to have developed guidance on referral and assessment systems for children affected by domestic violence, adult mental health problems and drugs and alcohol misuse; [264381]

(3) how many regional representatives the National Safeguarding Delivery Unit will have; [264398]

(4) who will appoint staff to the National Safeguarding Delivery Unit; [264400]

(5) when he expects the National Safeguarding Delivery Unit to make its first annual report to Parliament; [264401]

(6) what powers the National Safeguarding Delivery Unit will have to examine local authority documentation; [264402]

(7) by what date he expects the National Safeguarding Delivery Unit to be fully operational; [264412]

(8) how many people will be employed in the National Safeguarding Delivery Unit when it is at full operational strength; what the unit's budget will be for 2009-10; and from what sources its budget will be drawn; [264413]

(9) what powers the National Safeguarding Delivery Unit will have beyond those already held by his Department. [265226]

Beverley Hughes: The Government have accepted all the recommendations made by Lord Laming in his recent report, "The Protection of Children in England: A Progress Report". These include the establishment of a National Safeguarding Delivery Unit. The Government's immediate response to Lord Laming, published on 12 March, explained that the new Unit would provide support and challenge to local authorities, promote dynamic learning and good practice development, including through sector-led approaches, and act as a bridge between national policy development and local implementation. The Government have undertaken to publish a detailed action plan in response to Lord Laming's recommendations by the end of April.

This will set out the action to be taken to establish the National Safeguarding Delivery Unit and timescales for the delivery of action in response to all Lord Laming's recommendations.

Offences against Children

Margaret Moran: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families when his Department plans to publish its guidance on sexually exploited children. [263631]

Beverley Hughes: We expect to publish guidance on safeguarding children and young people from sexual exploitation in the spring.

Pupil Referral Units

Annette Brooke: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many pupil referral units have been placed in special measures in the last 18 months; and in which local authority areas such units are. [257450]

Jim Knight *[holding answer 23 February 2009]*: This is a matter for Ofsted. HMCI Christine Gilbert will be replying and a copy will be placed in the House Libraries.

Letter from Christine Gilbert, dated 4 March 2009:

Your recent parliamentary question has been passed to me, as Her Majesty's Chief Inspector, for a response.

The following table shows the pupil referral units that have been placed in special measures from the 1 April 2007 to the 31 December 2008.

Pupil Referral Units placed in special measures between the 1 April 2007 to 31 December 2008 (12 pupil referral units)

URN	School name	LA name
120769	Central Area Pupil Referral Unit	Norfolk
113657	Pupil Referral Unit, Poole	Poole
131193	Havering KS4 PRU[1]	Havering
125013	Area B - Out of School Learning Service	West Sussex
108756	Sunderland Pupil Referral Unit	Sunderland
134290	Mill Road Pupil Referral Unit, Ipors Centre	Liverpool
115938	The Bridge Education Centre	Hampshire
134000	Burton PRU[1]	Staffordshire
112986	West Cumbria Learning Centre	Cumbria
133755	Lansdown Tuition Centre	Bath and North East Somerset
134348	Student Support Service PRU[1]	Leicestershire
134522	The Butts Centre	Walsall

The number and lists of schools causing concern are published each term on the Ofsted website.

A copy of this reply has been sent to the right hon. Jim Knight, MP, Minister of State for Schools and learners, and will be placed in the Library of both Houses.

Schools: Fires

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many fires in schools in England were recorded in each month in each of the last four years. [266329]

Jim Knight: The figures for school fires provided by Communities and Local Government are given as follows. They are for fires attended by Local Fire and Rescue Services and do not include fires that were not attended by the Fire and Rescue Services.

Fires in schools by month of call, England 2004-07

Month of call	2004	2005	2006	2007
Total	1,229	1,102	1,075	829
January	122	102	107	90
February	82	90	94	[illegible]
March	179	95	116	54
April	94	86	80	76
May	100	98	90	61
June	100	105	100	71
July	81	107	90	60
August	65	63	52	39
September	88	76	73	91
October	66	92	71	55
November	150	120	111	108
December	80	57	70	49

Note:

Figures for 2007 are provisional and subject to change.

Science: GCSE

Mr. Gibb: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many and what percentage of comprehensive schools offer GCSEs in the separate sciences to all pupils, broken down by local authority. [241798]

Jim Knight: The Department does not hold information on subjects offered by schools. The number of comprehensive schools in each local authority that entered one or more pupils in separate sciences has been placed in the House Libraries.

Special Educational Needs

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many pupils with *(a)* statements of and *(b)* non-statemented special educational needs achieved an A* to C in both English and mathematics GCSE in each of the last 10 years. [253350]

Jim Knight: Figures are available for the years 2006-08 only, and are provided in the table:

Pupils[1] in maintained schools with a statement of special education needs (SEN) and with SEN but without a statement achieving A-C in both English and Mathematics GCSE, 2006-08[2]*

	Pupils with a statement of SEN	Pupils with SEN but without a statement
2006	1,072	8,990
2007	1,160	11,045
2008	1,264	16,431

[1] Pupils at the end of Key Stage 4

[2] Figures are based on final data in 2006 and 2007 and revised data in 2008

Source:

National Pupil Database

Mr. Graham Stuart: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what his most recent estimate is of the number of children with special educational needs who do not have a statement. [267520]

Jim Knight: As at January 2008, there were 1,390,670 children with special educational needs who do not have a statement. This figure is contained in Table 1b of the Statistical First Release Special Educational Needs in England, January 2008 available via

http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000794/index.shtml

Teachers: Sick Leave

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) how many teachers had a period of absence attributed to stress in the last four years for which figures are available; [266106]

(2) what the cost to *(a)* schools and *(b)* other education providers of teacher absence attributed to stress was in the last four years for which figures are available. [266107]

Jim Knight: The information requested is not collected centrally.

Truancy: Fines

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many parents resident in *(a)* Hemel Hempstead and *(b)* Hertfordshire were (i) fined and (ii) imprisoned for their children's non-attendance at school in each of the last five years. [265819]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The Ministry of Justice collects data for England and Wales on prosecutions brought against parents under the Education Act 1996 for the offence under s444(1) of failing to secure their child's regular attendance at school, and for prosecutions under s444(1A), the aggravated offence of knowing that their child is failing to attend school regularly. It is possible, because of the way courts record data that some data is collected under the more general heading of various offences under the Education Act 1996.

The information on the number of parents sentenced and given fines or immediate custodial sentences in the Hertfordshire area is detailed in the table. The Ministry of Justice only collects information on prosecutions based on police force regions.

The Department also collects and publishes data on penalty notices (fines) issued by local authorities in England to parents for not ensuring their child's regular attendance at school. The figures for the last four school academic years since the data collection began are detailed in the table. Data are only collected at local authority level.

Adults sentenced for child truanting offences[1] in the Hertfordshire police force area, 2003-07

		Fined	*Immediate custody*
2003	Parent failing to secure their child's regular attendance at school	6	0
	Parent knowing that their child is failing to attend school regularly without reasonable justification to cause him or her to attend school	10	0
2004	Parent failing to secure their child's regular attendance at school	17	0
	Parent knowing that their child is failing to attend school regularly without reasonable justification to cause him or her to attend school	6	0
2005	Parent failing to secure their child's regular attendance at school	26	0
	Parent knowing that their child is failing to attend school regularly without reasonable justification to cause him or her to attend school	1	0
2006	Parent failing to secure their child's regular attendance at school	47	0
	Parent knowing that their child is failing to attend school regularly without reasonable justification to cause him or her to attend school	0	0
2007	Parent failing to secure their child's regular attendance at school	42	1
	Parent knowing that their child is failing to attend school regularly without reasonable justification to cause him or her to attend school	0	0

[1] These data are extracted on the principal offence basis. These figures have been drawn from administrative data systems. Although care is taken when processing and analysing the returns the detail collected is subject to the inaccuracies inherent in any large scale recording system.

Source:

OMS Analytical Services, Ministry of Justice

School academic year—penalty notices for non attendance	*England*	*Hertfordshire LA*
1 September 2004 to 31 July 2005	3,843	9
1 August 2005 to 1 September 2006	12,150	10
2 September 2006 to 31 August 2007	14,625	28
1 September 2007 to 31 August 2008	18,291	82

Source:

Department for Children, Schools and Families data March 2009

Young People

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what assessment he has made of the *(a)* capability and *(b)* capacity of local authorities to deliver the changes to the machinery of local government required in respect of his Department's policy for 14 to 19 year olds. [267092]

Jim Knight: As part of the transfer of commissioning of 16-19 education and training from the Learning and Skills Council (LSC) to local authorities we have asked that local authorities work together in sub-regional groups that reflect the travel to learn patterns of young people.

The Department developed a two stage process to assess the capability and capacity of local authorities as they prepare for the transfer. In stage one, in September 2008, the Department asked local authorities to provide information on the sub-regional group they would be working in. A national panel reviewed the information and provided feedback in October.

The second stage of this process is now underway. The local authorities in each sub-regional group have provided information on how the they will operate, including: governance, resources, capacity and policy and planning to ensure they can undertake their future commissioning roles effectively. These proposals have been submitted to the Department and a national panel has been convened on 8 April to review them, identify any strengths and weaknesses and what support might be required.

Following on from the national panel the Department will be working with Government Offices, the Learning and Skills Council, The Local Government Association, the Association of Directors of Children's Services, the Association of Colleges and the Association of Learning Providers to ascertain what progress has been made, what further capacity and capability issues might have arisen, but also to identify and share good practice.

Subject to the successful passage of the Apprenticeship, Skills, Children and Learners Bill the Department plans to transfer around 1000 Learning and Skills Council staff to local authorities as we recognise they have the expertise, knowledge and appropriate skills required by local authorities.

To support local authorities through this process and help them develop their capacity and capability, the Department funded the REACT (Raising Expectations Action) programme from November 2008. This programme provides a package of support for local authorities to assist help build capacity and understanding through the transition period. It has been developed with the Local Government Association and the Association of Directors of Children's Services.

In addition a wider £20 million commissioning support programme for Children's Trusts was launched in September 2008 which includes a specific strand of support focussed on pre-19 commissioning.

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

Africa: Nuclear Free Zones

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how much the Government have spent on legal assistance for African states to develop the Pelindaba treaty. [264969]

Gillian Merron: We are not aware of any UK funding of legal assistance for African states to develop the treaty of Pelinaba.

Binyam Mohamed

Mr. Holloway: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what reports *(a)* his predecessors and *(b)* officials in his Department received on the location of Mr Binyam Mohamed between May 2002 and May 2004; and what steps the Government took to ascertain (i) his whereabouts and (ii) the conditions in which he was being held during that period. [259029]

Bill Rammell: It is the long-standing policy of the Government not to comment on intelligence matters. The High Court's Judgment in the case of R (Binyam Mohamed) *v.* Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs of 21 August 2008 said,

> "it is clear that the United States authorities have never informed either the SyS or any other part of the United Kingdom Government about BM's whereabouts in the period between 17 May 2002 and his transfer to Bagram in May 2004".

In giving evidence to the Intelligence and Security Committee in 2006, the then director general of the Security Service stated that

> "[This] is a case where, with hindsight, we would regret not seeking proper full assurances at the time".

Cayman Islands: Storms

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what steps his Department has taken to mitigate the risks of a future hurricane or storm event in the Cayman Islands. [267098]

Gillian Merron: Hazard Management Cayman Islands is a public authority with responsibility for the Territory's disaster preparedness. Their contingency plans, which incorporate lessons learnt from Hurricane Paloma in November 2008, will be fully tested in May 2009.

Colombia: Armed Conflict

John Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent reports he has received of the number of extra-judicial killings by members of the security forces in Colombia in 2008. [265372]

Gillian Merron: We have received no reports of extra-judicial killings by members of the security forces in Colombia committed in 2009. I issued a statement on the issue on 30 October 2008 in which I said that the Colombian Government's decision to dismiss a number of army officers as a result of recent extra-judicial killings and cases of criminal conspiracy was important. It is vital, not least for Colombia's international reputation, that the Government and courts continue to show a determination to deal with human rights abuses committed by members of the armed forces, and that those convicted by the civilian justice system are punished appropriately.

The statement of 30 October 2008 is available for viewing online at:

http://www.fco.gov.uk/en/newsroom/latest-news/
?view=PressR&id=8365817

Colombia: Human Rights

John Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent assessment he has made of the human rights situation in Colombia. [265373]

Gillian Merron: We remain deeply concerned by the human rights situation in Colombia. Many vulnerable groups including the indigenous, civil society organisations, trade unionists and human rights defenders face violence and intimidation.

I pressed the need for stronger action on human rights with Colombian vice-President Francisco Santos Calderon during a meeting in November 2008, and also during separate meetings with the Colombian Foreign Minister and the Colombian ambassador in London.

The UK is funding a broad range of projects to promote human rights in Colombia, alongside international and civil society partners.

John Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent discussions he has had with the government of Colombia on human rights. [265376]

Gillian Merron: I refer the hon. Member to my answer of 12 March 2009, *Official Report*, column 618W, on Colombia: Human Rights.

John Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent discussions he has had with the UN High Commissioner for Refugees on the human rights situation in Colombia. [265377]

Gillian Merron: My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary has held no discussions with the UN High Commissioner for Refugees on the human rights situation in Colombia. However he discussed Colombia with the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights in November 2008.

The numbers and plight of internally displaced persons in Colombia is a serious concern, which is why we have supported projects on the issue implemented by the UN High Commissioner for Refugees in Colombia.

Colombia: Military Aid

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the answers of 25 November 2008, *Official Report*, columns 1195-6W and 12 January 2009, *Official Report*, column 358W, on Colombia: armed forces, for what reason the per capita cost of providing training to members of the Colombian armed forces decreased between 2006-07 and 2007-08. [265158]

Gillian Merron: An increased number of individuals attended training workshops in 2007-08, which decreased the per capita cost, but not the overall cost, of this training. The cost of our bi-lateral human rights and demining programmes with the Colombian armed forces covers flights, expenses and administration costs of the UK trainers involved.

Cuba: Political Prisoners

John Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what reports he has received of the number of people convicted of the crime of social dangerousness in Cuba in each of the last five years. [265458]

Gillian Merron: We are very concerned about the use of charges of "social dangerousness" in Cuba to arrest those whom the Cuban authorities believe may cause a crime in the future.

During Cuba's review at the Human Rights Council in February 2009, the UK recommended that Cuba refrain from using such laws to restrict the rights of freedom of expression and association.

The Cuban government does not publish statistics on the number of people convicted on these grounds, but the non-governmental Cuban commission for human rights and national reconciliation, estimates that there are currently between 3,000 and 5,000 people in prison in Cuba convicted of "pre-criminal social dangerousness."

Our embassy in Havana has requested these figures from the Cuban authorities and I will write if we receive a reply.

Departmental Billing

Mr. Oaten: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what percentage of invoices from suppliers his Department has settled within 10 days of receipt in the last four months. [266244]

Gillian Merron *[holding answer 24 March 2009]*: The percentage of invoices settled within-10 days in each of the last four months is:

	Percentage
November	70.3
December	76.5
January	73.2
February	83.1

These figures measure payments made in the UK. Identifying these figures from overseas missions would mean disproportionate cost.

Departmental Electricity Generation

Simon Hughes: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what *(a)* capital and *(b)* maintenance expenditure his Department has incurred on standby diesel generators for back-up electricity supply of his Department's estate in each year since March 1997. [266409]

Gillian Merron *[holding answer 25 March 2009]*: Budgets for capital and maintenance expenditure are devolved to Foreign and Commonwealth missions overseas.

The information is not held centrally and it is not possible to obtain an answer without incurring disproportionate cost.

Departmental Empty Property

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what estimate he has made of the change in the annual cost to his Department of maintaining the empty public buildings owned by his Department as a result of the April 2008 changes to empty property rate relief. [267132]

Gillian Merron: None. The Foreign and Commonwealth Office has no empty, owned, public buildings on its UK Estate.

Departmental Public Expenditure

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how much capital spending is planned to be brought forward by his Department to *(a)* 2008-09 and *(b)* 2009-10. [266293]

Gillian Merron: The information is as follows.

(a) The FCO does not plan to bring forward any expenditure to 2008-09.

(b) The FCO does not plan to bring forward any expenditure to 2009-10.

Departmental Recruitment

Justine Greening: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the answer of 5 March 2009, *Official Report*, column 1746W, on departmental recruitment, what estimate he has made of the annual salary cost of *(a)* permanent, *(b)* temporary and *(c)* agency staff recruited by his Department in each year since 2005-06. [264299]

Gillian Merron: The information requested is as follows:

(a) (i) The estimated annual salary costs for permanent staff recruited by the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO), including staff recruited on fixed term contracts of employment of one year or more, in each of the last four financial years is as follows:

	£ million
2005-06	4.253
2006-07	7.427
2007-08	3.639
2008-09	5.506

These are not the actual pay costs of the staff recruited but have been calculated using the numbers recruited given in the answer of 5 March 2009, *Official Report*, column 1746W, and the average salary, employers national insurance and employers pension contribution rates for the relevant financial years.

(a) (ii) The annual salary costs for permanent staff recruited by FCO Services, including staff recruited on fixed term contracts of employment of one year or more, in each of the last four financial years is as follows:

	£ million
2005-06	1.351
2006-07	2.464
2007-08	1.463
2008-09	2.645

These costs have been calculated on the same basis as at *(a)* (i).

(b) It is difficult to identify the individual costs of temporary staff, who may work irregular hours, and this could be done only at disproportionate cost. The total FCO costs for temporary staff, including those recruited in-year and reported in the answer of 5 March 2009, *Official Report*, column 1746W, for the four financial years were:

	£ million
2005-06	8.799
2006-07	5.007
2007-08	1.480
2008-09	2.381

The figure for 2008-09 is projected using the expenditure for the first three quarters.

(c) Total FCO costs for agency staff in the four financial years were:

	£ million
2005-06	3.730
2006-07	3.359
2007-08	5.500
2008-09	5.099

The figure for 2008-09 is projected using the expenditure for the first three quarters.

Departmental Standards

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what estimate he has made of the cost to his Department of measuring compliance with its targets under its public service agreements in the last 12 months for which figures are available. [266566]

Gillian Merron: Measuring compliance is an integral part of delivering the Foreign and Commonwealth Office's (FCO) targets under Public Service Agreement (PSA) 30 "Reduce the impact of conflicts globally". Responsibility for measuring lies with the FCO's Conflict Group supported by the Finance Directorate. We currently estimate this to be a proportion of the time of three members of staff.

The FCO contributes but does not lead on any other PSAs, and therefore does not measure compliance on any other PSA targets.

Drugs

Mrs. Curtis-Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what joint UK/USA initiatives are in place to tackle the production and distribution of drugs. [266890]

Bill Rammell: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office works closely with our partners in government to contribute to the delivery of the Government counter narcotics objectives. Within Whitehall the lead for international drugs policy rests with the Home Office.

The UK is in direct and regular political, diplomatic and law enforcement contact with the relevant US authorities in London, Washington and other key locations such as Colombia and Afghanistan. UK and US law enforcement officers work alongside each other in drug producing and transit countries to disrupt production and trafficking. More specifically as part of our co-operation to tackle the illicit drugs trade in Afghanistan, with the US we have jointly established both the Joint Narcotics Analysis Centre and the Inter-agency Operations Coordination Centre to improve law enforcement co-ordination mechanisms.

Electoral Register

Mr. Dunne: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many leaflets promoting overseas voter registration were sent to each British mission overseas in the last 12 months. [265964]

Gillian Merron: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office's 'Going to live abroad' leaflet provides information on overseas voter registration. 7,953 of these leaflets were distributed in the last 12 months to the following diplomatic missions overseas:

Accra (100)
Addis Ababa (50)
Alicante (100)
Almaty (40)
Ankara (500)
Athens (400)
Bangkok (300)
Banjul (50)
Beirut (250)
Belmopan (50)
Boston (50)
Brisbane (150)
Budapest (40)
Cape Town (50)
Caracas (50)
Chennai (25)
Dubai (100)
Goa (100)
Ho Chin Minh (100)
Hong Kong (50)
Jakarta (300)
Kampala (50)
Karachi (20)
Kyiv (100)
Kigali (200)
Kolkata (25)
La Paz (50)
Las Palmas (20)
Lille (50)
Luanda (10)
Lyon (10)
Manila (300)
Madrid (60)
Malaga (250)
Montenegro (500)
Montevideo (100)
Moscow (300)
Mumbai (50)
Munich (10)
Muscat (100)
New Delhi (25)
New York (50)
Panama City (250)
Palma (200)
Perth (100)
Phnom Penh (40)
Port Louis (50)
Port Moresby (200)
Pretoria (100)
Rome (250)
Sarajevo (5)
Stockholm (30)
Suva (200)
Tashkent (20).

In addition to this, 6,350 Electoral Commission 'Overseas Voters' leaflets were sent to the following diplomatic missions overseas:

Madrid (5,000)
Malaga (1,000)
Palma de Mallorca (100)
Lisbon (250)
Portimao (50).

Ethiopia: Economic Situation

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent discussions he has had with the government of Ethiopia on its economy. [265332]

Gillian Merron: My right hon. Friend the International Development Secretary discussed the G20 summit with Ethiopian Prime Minister Meles Zenawi on 16 March 2009. My noble Friend, right hon. Lord Malloch-Brown, the Minister for Africa, Asia and the UN, also raised economic issues with Prime Minister Meles during their meeting on 2 February 2009.

Our ambassador in Addis Ababa discusses economic issues with Ethiopian ministers on a regular basis.

Falkland Islands: Landmines

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what progress has been made in de-mining operations in the Falkland Islands. [267108]

Gillian Merron: Immediately following the conflict, approximately 1,855 mines were removed and destroyed.

In total, the 117 mined areas that remain cover just over 13 sq km and contain an estimated 20,000 land mines. Clearing these mined areas presents significant technical and environmental challenges, covering as they do a wide range of terrain including sand dunes, rock screes and peat.

Under the Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-personnel Mines and on their Destruction (Ottawa Convention), the UK has an obligation to clear these mined areas by March 2019. A Feasibility Study on the clearance of landmines in the Falkland Islands was completed in October 2007. In November 2008, the Government announced their decision to proceed with the clearance of selected mined areas. The Foreign and Commonwealth Office is now taking forward the procurement process to carry out this de-mining, and has established a National Mine Action Authority (which includes representatives from the Falkland Islands Government) to oversee this. The Foreign and Commonwealth Office issued a Prior Information Notice on 20 February 2009 for the contract which we will put out to tender.

In the meantime, in full compliance with the Ottawa Convention, the mined areas are clearly marked, fenced and regularly monitored.

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many deaths have occurred from accidents involving land mines in the Falkland Islands in each of the last 20 years. [267109]

Gillian Merron: Since the end of the conflict in 1982 there have been no deaths involving land mines in the Falkland Islands.

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what funding has been provided to the Falkland Islands government for the purposes of de-mining operations in the last five years. [267111]

Gillian Merron: No funding has been provided to the Falkland Islands for the purposes of de-mining. As the state party to the Ottawa Convention it is the responsibility of the Government to clear the mined areas in the Falkland Islands.

There is a Ministry of Defence funded Joint Explosive Ordnance Disposal Detachment permanently based in the Falkland Islands that regular monitors the mined areas and disposes of mines that surface.

Hezbollah

Andrew Gwynne: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment his Department has made of levels of *(a)* political, *(b)* financial and *(c)* military support given by the governments of (i) Syria and (ii) Iran to Hezbollah. [265979]

Bill Rammell: We assess that the Syrian and Iranian Governments continue to provide significant financial and military support to Hezbollah, although we are unable quantify the precise amounts. Both the Syrian and Iranian Governments provide political support for Hezbollah and we call on both Governments to cease this support, which only increases instability in the region.

Hungary: Antisemitism

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what reports he has received of incidents of anti-Semitism in Hungary since January 2009; and if he will make a statement. [266994]

Caroline Flint: None.

Iran: Politics and Government

Mr. Ancram: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent discussions he has had with the US administration on the political situation in Iran. [265394]

Bill Rammell: My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary discussed Iran and other matters with Secretary of State Hillary Clinton on 3 February 2009 and 18 March 2009. These discussions covered a broad range of issues, including the political situation in Iran.

Foreign and Commonwealth Office officials have also been in regular contact with the US Administration as it undertakes a review of its Iran policy.

Ireland

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent discussions he has had with his Irish counterpart on UK-Irish relations. [267221]

Caroline Flint: My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary last met the Irish Foreign Minister, Micheál Martin, for discussions on UK-Irish relations and European issues during his visit to Dublin on 11 September 2008.

Middle East: Armed Conflict

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the reply to the right hon. and learned Member for Devizes (Mr. Ancram) of 27 January 2009, *Official Report*, columns 390-1W, on what date in December 2008 he was first made aware that rockets were fired into Israel from Gaza. [254038]

Bill Rammell: We monitor rocket attacks from Gaza closely and make very clear our condemnation of them. My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary visited Sderot in November 2008 and I visited Ashkelon in December 2008 to see the effects. Our embassy in Tel Aviv reported rockets being fired at Israel on 3 December 2008.

However, my right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary is also well aware of the rocket attacks against Israel over the past several years.

Jeff Ennis: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what reports he has received on the *(a)* social and *(b)* economic effects of rocket and mortar attacks fired from the Gaza Strip on residents in southern Israel. [265960]

Bill Rammell: Our ambassador and officials in Tel Aviv frequently travel to towns in southern Israel that have been subject to indiscriminate rocket fire from terrorist groups in Gaza. They have called on schools, hospitals, families and community leaders in and around Sderot and Ashkelon to assess the impact of rocket and mortar attacks.

My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary also visited Sderot in November 2008, and I visited Ashkelon in December 2008. In recent months the frequency and indiscriminate nature of the attacks that target citizens has had a highly damaging impact on people's everyday lives in these areas. The extent of the psychological damage, especially to children, is clear. In addition to the psychological damage to children, the need to shelter from attacks while at school has had a disruptive effect on education. Likewise, the general disruption and physical threat of rocket fire has impeded economic growth and deterred investment. We continue to condemn all terrorist attacks, on southern Israel and elsewhere.

Clare Short: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether he has made an assessment of the findings of the EU Heads of Mission report on East Jerusalem; and if he will make a statement. [266397]

Bill Rammell: It would not be appropriate to comment in detail on the contents of an internal report that was leaked to the press. We have made clear our position that we believe that a lasting peace between Palestinians and Israelis will mean, among other things, the creation of a Palestinian state based on 1967 borders and with East Jerusalem as its capital. We are strongly opposed to any attempts to change the facts on the ground in East Jerusalem by excluding Palestinians from the city and by increasing the number of settlers living there. Such acts raise tensions and undermine prospects for peace. We have made these concerns known to the Israelis both in private and in public, most recently in the form of statements by the EU on the threat of house demolitions in Silwan village and house evictions in the Sheikh Jarrah neighbourhood.

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what reports he has received on the number of Israelis killed in terrorist attacks since 3 February 2009; and if he will make a statement. [266990]

Bill Rammell: According to the Israeli Ministry of Foreign Affairs there have been two Israelis killed in terrorist attacks since 3 February 2009. The UK condemns all terrorist activity. We call on all groups to pursue their objectives through peaceful means: the only way forward in Israel and the Occupied Palestinian Territories is through dialogue; violence can lead nowhere but to more violence and suffering.

Mr. Lidington: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will place in the Library a copy of the most recent EU Heads of Mission Report on East Jerusalem; and if he will make a statement. [267118]

Bill Rammell *[holding answer 26 March 2009]*: The EU Heads of Mission Report on East Jerusalem is a classified document. It would not be appropriate to comment in detail on the contents of an internal report that was leaked to the press.

St. Helena

Bob Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how much was paid in subsidy from the public purse in respect of St. Helena in each of the last 10 financial years; and what estimate he has made of the subsidy to be paid in each of the next five years. [266059]

Mr. Michael Foster: I have been asked to reply.

Support to St. Helena from the Department for International Development over the last ten years is set out in the following table:

	DFID support (£ million)
1998-99	8.8
1999-2000	9.4
2000-01	10.1
2001-02	10.1
2002-03	9.6
2003-04	10.5
2004-05	14.5
2005-06	13.6
2006-07	15.7
2007-08	17.6

DFID support over the next five years, including 2008-09, is expected to be between £20 million and £25 million per annum. This does not include capital expenditure on future access arrangements following the outcome of the consultation announced on 16 March.

St. Helena: National Income

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what the annual per capita gross domestic product was of St. Helena in each of the last 10 years. [267103]

Gillian Merron: St. Helena Government are responsible for producing these statistics. Their electronic data only go as far back as 2000-01 and I understand that the figure for 2008-09 is not yet available. The per capita gross domestic product (GDP) for each of the last eight years is:

	£
2007-08	4,180.35
2006-07	3,453.00
2005-06	3,099.77
2004-05	3,246.01
2003-04	3,018.94
2002-03	2,927.40
2001-02	2,582.19
2000-01	2,538.17

St. Helena: Tourism

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many tourists visited St. Helena in each of the last 10 years. [267102]

Gillian Merron: The St. Helena Government are responsible for keeping statistics on numbers of tourists. They have provided the figures, set out as follows, of tourists visiting St. Helena in the years 2000 to 2008. Figures for 1999 are not available.

	Number
2008	617
2007	1,113
2006	752
2005	804
2004	812
2003	747
2002	832
2001	669
2000	417

Sudan: Foreign Relations

John Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what steps he proposes to take with his EU colleagues to impose sanctions on the government of Sudan. [265476]

Gillian Merron: While we will keep this continuously under review we are currently not proposing to take steps with our EU colleagues to impose additional sanctions on the government of Sudan.

The EU already maintains an arms embargo covering all of Sudan, which has been in place since 2004. The EU also imposes financial and travel restrictions against four individuals who have been designated by the UN Sanctions Committee on Sudan.

Sudan: Press Freedom

John Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what representations he has made to the Sudanese government about its use of the Press Act 2004 to censor newspapers and limit freedom of expression. [265364]

Gillian Merron: Working through the EU, we regularly raise the need to fulfil obligations on human rights with the Governments of Sudan and South Sudan. Freedom of expression and press freedom were raised with the Government of Sudan on 3 December 2008 and the Government of South Sudan on 18 November 2008.

Sudan: War Crimes

John Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what discussions he has had with his counterparts in *(a)* the EU and *(b)* the UN Security Council on the prospects of bringing President Bashir to trial before the International Criminal Court following the issue of an arrest warrant for him. [265477]

Gillian Merron: My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary has had extensive discussion on the International Criminal Court (ICC) indictment of President Bashir with his EU and UN Security Council counterparts, including at the 16 March 2009, EU General Affairs and External Relations Council and during his 18 March 2009 visit to Washington.

We continue to underline in all contacts the need for Sudan to co-operate with the ICC, as well as to take concrete action for peace in Darfur. Most recent contacts have focussed on the need for the government of Sudan to reconsider its decision to expel international humanitarian non-governmental organisations.

Terrorism: Finance

Mr. Paul Goodman: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the answer of 10 March 2009, *Official Report*, column 227W, on terrorism: finance, to which *(a)* countries and *(b)* projects the £20 million spent in 2008-09 on tackling radicalisation and promoting understanding overseas was allocated. [267423]

Bill Rammell: In order to protect the safety and security of organisations delivering sensitive projects overseas, we do not plan to publish a breakdown by country or by project of the £20 million allocated in 2008-09 to tackling radicalisation and promoting understanding overseas.

Mr. Paul Goodman: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the answer of 10 March 2009, *Official Report*, columns 226-7W, on terrorism: finance, if he will publish details of the monitoring process agreed between the Prime Minister's Delivery Unit and the National Audit Office. [267424]

Bill Rammell: We have agreed a system with my right hon. Friend the Prime Minister's Delivery Unit and the National Audit Office under which baselines indicating the level of capability to effectively counter radicalisation in each country have been established. Projects designed to improve each country's capability are evaluated on completion to assess how they contribute to an improvement. External verification is an important part of this, and lessons learned from the evaluation are used to improve the future design of projects.

UN World Conference against Racism

Mr. Dismore: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will withdraw UK *(a)* representation and *(b)* support for the United Nations Durban II Conference; and if he will make a statement. [265905]

Gillian Merron: The UK is still engaged in the Durban Review process and we will keep our position under review. A new draft outcome document was tabled on 17 March 2009. The Government are considering their position on this document.

The Government have expressed a consistent view on the Durban Review Conference. We want the conference to forge a collective will to fight against racism in all its forms, in all parts of the world. It should not be seen as an opportunity to press unrelated political interests and issues.

Mr. Dismore: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs which countries *(a)* have withdrawn from and *(b)* are not otherwise participating in the United Nations Durban II Conference; and if he will make a statement. [265906]

Gillian Merron: Canada and Israel have formally withdrawn from the Durban Review Conference.

The US and Italy announced that they would not take part in negotiations on the draft document that was under negotiation, and set conditions for their re-engagement.

This document has now been superseded by an updated version, which issued on 17 March 2009.

The Government have expressed a consistent view on the Durban Review Conference. We want the conference to forge a collective will to fight against racism in all its forms, in all parts of the world. It should not be seen as an opportunity to press unrelated political interests and issues.

Mr. Lidington: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will make it his policy not to attend the forthcoming Durban II Conference in Geneva; and if he will make a statement. [266165]

Gillian Merron *[holding answer of 24 March 2009]*: The UK is still engaged in the Durban Review process and we will keep our position under review. A new draft outcome document was tabled on 17 March 2009. The Government are considering its position on this document.

The Government have expressed a consistent view on the Durban Review conference. We want the conference to forge a collective will to fight against racism in all its forms, in all parts of the world. It should not be seen as an opportunity to press unrelated political interests and issues.

Uzbekistan: Political Prisoners

John Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent reports he has received of the number of political prisoners in Uzbekistan. [265371]

Caroline Flint: We continue to be concerned by the detention of political prisoners in Uzbekistan. The recent releases from jail of prominent human rights activists Saidjahon Zainabitdinov (February 2008), Mutabar Tojibayeva (June 2008) and Dilmurod Mukhitdinov (October 2008) constitute positive steps by the Uzbek side in response to international concerns. Set against this, however, is the ongoing lack of progress in resolving other prominent cases of persons imprisoned on political grounds—most notably the dissident poet Yusuf Juma and opposition politician Sanjar Umarov, as well as two individuals jailed more recently on politically-motivated grounds: Akzam Tu[illegible]unov (human rights defender sentenced to ten years imprisonment in October 2008 for "extortion") and Salijon Abdurahmanov (human rights defender also sentenced to ten years for alleged drugs-related offences).

Our embassy in Tashkent is following these cases closely. We have raised our concerns with the Uzbek Government and maintain a regular dialogue on these issues with human rights activists and non-governmental organisations. EU Heads of Mission in Tashkent maintain a list of individual cases of particular concern. These cases are among the issues covered which in the annual EU-Uzbekistan human rights dialogue.

In December 2008 Human Rights Watch issued a non-exhaustive "List of Imprisoned Uzbek Defenders and Activists", whose cases they follow closely. This report is available for viewing online at:

http://www.hrw.org/en/news/2008/12/10/list-imprisoned-uzbek-defenders-and-activists

Written Questions: Government Responses

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs when he plans to answer question 259021 on China, tabled on 25 February 2009; what the reason is for the time taken to answer; and if he will make a statement. [266988]

Gillian Merron: This question was answered on 23 March 2009, *Official Report*, column 23W. The delay in replying was due to administrative error.

Zimbabwe: Politics and Government

John Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will raise the matter of the political situation in Zimbabwe at the United Nations Security Council. [265479]

Gillian Merron: The UN Security Council remains seized of the situation in Zimbabwe, and my right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary was present when it was discussed on 15 December 2008. We shall continue to work for an effective and coherent response to the situation in Zimbabwe in a range of international fora, including, where appropriate, the UN Security Council.

Zimbabwe: Sanctions

John Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what EU sanctions are in place in respect of Zimbabwe. [265455]

Gillian Merron: The EU has maintained an embargo on arms and related material entering Zimbabwe since 2002. The EU has also prohibited the provision of any technical assistance relating to military activities and has imposed a ban on the supply of any equipment that might be used for internal repression.

The EU has further imposed targeted financial and travel restrictions on 203 individuals and 40 entities who supported the government of Zimbabwe or were associated with its violence and human rights abuses prior to Morgan Tsvangirai's inauguration as the Zimbabwean Prime Minister. There are no comprehensive trade sanctions in place.

Zimbabwe: Sequestration of Assets

John Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many Zimbabwean *(a)* politicians, *(b)* civil servants, *(c)* judges and *(d)* members of the armed forces have assets frozen in UK banks or other financial institutions. [265478]

Gillian Merron: 54 accounts belonging to individuals subject to targeted financial and travel restrictions on Zimbabwe have been frozen in the UK. The list of those subject to these EU sanctions include members and former members of the government of Zimbabwe, business people and others associated with the violence and human rights abuses of the regime as constituted prior to the inauguration of Morgan Tsvangirai as the Zimbabwean Prime Minister.

ENERGY AND CLIMATE CHANGE

Departmental Carbon Emissions

Greg Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change whether his Department has adopted the Carbon Trust's Carbon Management Programme. [266737]

Joan Ruddock: Yes. The Department of Energy and Climate Change recently signed a contract with the Carbon Trust to embark on a Carbon Management Plan.

Departmental Written Questions

Gregory Barker: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what the average time taken by his Department to answer parliamentary questions for *(a)* ordinary and *(b)* named day written answer was in the latest period for which information is available. [255148]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: Until 26 January 2009 this task was shared by the Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform and the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs Parliamentary Units who monitored all parliamentary questions. This responsibility transferred to the Department of Energy and Climate Change's Parliamentary Unit on its creation on 26 January 2009.

A DECC for December have been answered and the Department currently has nine outstanding questions that were tabled for answer in January 2009.

Parliamentary Unit does record average times taken to reply to questions. Processes are now in place that provides the following information:

Written parliamentary questions: As at 25 March 2009

	February (Number)
Monthly PQs	277
Total PQs	520
Answered within five days	36
Answered between six and 10 days	134
Answered between 11 and 15 days	35
Answered between 16 and 20 days	23
Answered 21 days or over	11
Transferred	1
Lords	41

Named day PQs

	February (Number)
Total named day questions per month	32
Answered on day	0
Answered within five days	13

Forestry

Martin Horwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change when the findings of the study commissioned by his Department and the Department for International Development on options for financing mechanisms for sustainable forest management will be published. [266800]

Joan Ruddock *[holding answer 26 March 2009]*: We expect the findings of the study to be published by June this year.

Forests: Environment Protection

Simon Hughes: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change (1) how much was spent on *(a)* forest protection and *(b)* reducing levels of deforestation in each of the last three years; and under which budget headings such expenditure was allocated; [264691]

(2) how much he has allocated for *(a)* forest protection and *(b)* reducing levels of deforestation in each of the next three years; and under which budget headings such expenditure is to be allocated. [264692]

Mr. Thomas: I have been asked to reply.

The Department for International Development (DFID) does not record expenditure on forest protection or on reducing deforestation. It uses the two categories of expenditure required by the Development Aid Committee of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD): Forestry Policy and Administrative Management; and Forestry Development. Total bilateral expenditure incurred on forests in the last three financial years was: £15.5 million in 2005-06: £15.6 million in 2006-07: and £74 million in 2007-08.

Some of the money which DFID provides to international organisations is also spent on forests but these contributions are not recorded separately. The international organisations which DFID supports and which work on forests include the World Bank, Asian Development Bank, Asian Development Bank and the Food and Agriculture Organisation of the UN.

The following bilateral expenditure on forests was committed in the last three financial years:

2005-06

£1.5 million, Orissa Forest Sector Support Project, India.

2006-07

£24 million, over a five-year period, to the Forest Governance and Trade Programme to support efforts to stop illegal logging.

£140 million replenishment of the Global Environment Facility, over a four-year period, a proportion of which will be spent on forests.

£1 million, Natural Resource Management and Livelihoods Programme, Cambodia

2007-08

£10 million to the Congo Basin Forest Fund for start-up activities.

£50 million to the Congo Basin Forest Fund and £15 million to the Forest Carbon Partnership Facility, from the International Window of the Environmental Transformation Fund. In December 2008 it was announced that up to another £100 million would be made available for forests from the Environmental Transformation Fund.

£5 million for work by the Rights and Resources Initiative over a five-year period to help accelerate forest tenure, policy and market reforms.

£1.5 million to the National Forest Programme Facility over a three-year period.

£1.5 million to PROFOR (Programme on Forests of the World Bank), over a three-year period.

£1 million for work on an Economics of Climate Change Study and work low carbon development in Brazil, some of which relates to forests.

Greenhouse Gas Emissions

Greg Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what estimate he has made of the proportion of UK *(a)* carbon dioxide and *(b)* other greenhouse gas emissions arising from (i) domestic heating, (ii) domestic air conditioning and (iii) domestic cooking appliances in each of the last 10 years. [266632]

Joan Ruddock: The proportion of total UK carbon dioxide emissions arising from domestic heating (space heating and water heating combined) and cooking has remained more or less constant over the last 10 years (from 1997 to 2006, the latest year for which data is available). Domestic heating represents between 18 and 19 per cent. of total UK carbon dioxide emissions, while domestic cooking represents 1 per cent. of total UK carbon dioxide emissions. Carbon dioxide emissions from domestic air conditioning are currently extremely small (estimated to be less than 0.1 million tonnes of carbon dioxide per annum which equates to around

0.02 per cent. of the UK total CO$_2$ emissions). However, demand for air conditioning is expected to double by 2020. We have no estimates of other greenhouse gas emissions arising from these sources although these are likely to be very small as a proportion of total UK emissions.

Housing: Insulation

Dr. Tony Wright: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what assistance is available from his Department to enable households with solid walls to improve the insulation of their houses. [263962]

Joan Ruddock: The primary source of assistance for the insulation of solid walled homes in Great Britain is the Carbon Emissions Reduction Target (CERT), which requires energy suppliers to meet targets by encouraging households to take-up energy efficiency measures. The suppliers are free to decide how to meet their targets, and will tend to focus on the most cost-effective measures, such as loft and cavity wall insulation.

We recognise that the high up-front cost of solid wall insulation makes it difficult for suppliers to justify the investment when more cost-effective measures are available. We have therefore introduced specific incentives to help improve the financial viability of these measures, with a particular focus on solid-walled homes which are off the gas grid. Overall, suppliers installed around 40,000 solid wall measures from April 2005 to March 2008, mostly in partnership with social landlords, and around 80,000 heating measures.

There is a particular focus on improving the energy efficiency of hard to treat properties in the package of consultations published on 12 February. The consultations can be accessed via the Department of Energy and Climate Change website:

www.decc.gov.uk/en/content/cms/consultations/open/open.aspx

We also continue to assess innovative products, including solid wall insulation, for inclusion in the Warm Front scheme—the Government's main fuel poverty programme in England.

Low Carbon Buildings Programme

Charles Hendry: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what assessment he has made of the effect on levels of employment in the UK renewables sector of the withdrawal of the Low Carbon Buildings Programme phase 2. [254407]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The Low Carbon Buildings Programme (LCBP) phase 2 has not been withdrawn but closed to new applications for solar PV technology only. Solar thermal, biomass, ground source heat pumps and micro wind technologies continue to receive support through the programme. We believe that current incentives and wider measures to support small scale onsite energy technologies should continue to support the development of the sector.

LCBP Phase 2 is due to close at the end of June 2009. To date we have committed £33.2 million of the £50 million budget to support microgeneration installations in schools, public sector and local community groups. Although £33.2 million has been committed only £8.3 million has been spent. Much of the work is still to take place over the next 12 months leading up to the introduction of feed-in-tariffs in April 2010 and the renewable heat incentive in April 2011. We are also considering what further support can be made available in the intervening period.

Members: Correspondence

Mr. Brazier: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change when he plans to reply to the letters of 5 November 2008 and 9 January 2009 from the hon. Member for Canterbury, sent on behalf of a constituent, Mr Scott Collins. [264429]

Joan Ruddock: I replied to the hon. Member on 25 March 2009 and apologise for the long delay, which was due to the departmental reorganisation.

Power Stations: Carbon Emissions

Mr. Ancram: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what steps he is taking further to reduce carbon dioxide emissions from fossil fuel-fired power stations. [265441]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The EU ETS sits at the centre of our long term strategy to deliver progressively lower emissions from electricity generation over time. From 2013, the EU ETS cap on carbon emissions will reduce by 1.74 per cent. of 2005 emissions each year, delivering an overall reduction of 21 per cent. below 2005 verified emissions by 2020. Also from 2013, all emissions allowances will be auctioned to the power sector in the UK which will provide further incentive to the sector to reduce emissions.

DECC supports innovation in carbon abatement technologies and has launched one of the world's first full scale carbon capture and storage demonstration projects. In addition, the DECC Environmental Transformation Fund recently announced a £15 million joint call for proposals with the Technology Strategy Board and Northern Way to demonstrate component parts and pilot scale projects on carbon abatement technologies.

The Government are also supporting the wider deployment of CCS through the introduction of the Energy Act 2008 which includes one of the first legal regimes in the world to regulate the long-term offshore storage of carbon dioxide deep underground.

Warm Front Scheme

Greg Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how many Warm Front installations took *(a)* more than 30, *(b)* more than 60, *(c)* more than 90, *(d)* more than 120, *(e)* more than 150 and *(f)* more than 180 working days from survey to completion of the work in each of the last five years. [257474]

Joan Ruddock: Warm Front installation timescales are not recorded in the periods requested. They are recorded against the timescales put in place by the Department at the inception of the Scheme.

These timescales are detailed in the table, which provides information from the inception of the current phase of Warm Front in 2005.

Warm Front Installations

	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	Percentage 2008-09
Heating / Time Band:				
Within 120 days (%)	92	80	89	90
Outside 120 days (%)	8	20	11	10
Insulation / Time Band:				
Within 40 days (%)	79	75	82	72
Outside 40 days (%)	21	25	18	28

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Africa: Agriculture

Annette Brooke: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development pursuant to the answer of 26 February 2009, *Official Report*, columns 1007-8W, on loans, if he will make an assessment of the likely effects on his Department's assistance programmes for smallholders in *(a)* Malawi and *(b)* Africa of recent increases in the price of fertiliser. [267362]

Mr. Michael Foster: The Department for International Development (DFID) is supporting a farm inputs subsidy programme in Malawi through our £22 million per annum budget support as well as a further £20 million commitment for agriculture over four years (2007-11). These efforts have delivered affordable seed and fertiliser to 1.5 million smallholder families, and led to a strong harvest for a fourth successive year. As a result, Malawi's economic growth reached 8.7 per cent. in 2008, and food security has significantly improved. For example, in the current lean season, 670,000 people are at risk of hunger; compared to 5 million in 2005. Despite the high fertiliser prices during 2008, we expect that our support will still help the same number of people.

Increases in fertiliser prices were a major challenge for Africa's farmers in 2008. At a global level, prices reached a high of almost $900 per tonne in late 2008 but the price of urea has now fallen to around $300 per tonne. However, the availability of foreign exchange, which has become even scarcer in the current economic downturn, means that fertiliser use will still be limited in many countries.

Africa: Peacekeeping Operations

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how much his Department has contributed to the Africa Programme of the Conflict Prevention Pool in each year since 2001. [265125]

Mr. Michael Foster: From 2001 to 2007, the UK Government funded its conflict related programme activity through the Global Conflict Prevention Pool (GCPP) and Africa Conflict Prevention Pool (ACPP), owned and managed tri-departmentally by DFID, FCO and MOD. By bringing together the UK Government's development, diplomatic, and defence interests and expertise this ensured a coherent response to conflict prevention. In 2001, all three departments contributed funds to form these pools (£2.1 million disbursed by the FCO; £14.4 million by DFID and £3.2 million by MOD), but in subsequent years funds have been allocated directly from HMT. The Conflict Prevention Pool (CPP) was set up in April 2008 as a successor to the former Global and Africa Conflict Prevention Pools, focussing activity through regional programmes where the UK can have its biggest impact, and through thematic programmes to deal with cross-cutting conflict prevention issues. The CPP commands a total of £112 million in 2008-09 of which the Africa Conflict Prevention Programme is forecast to spend £68 million. From 2001-02 to 2007-08, HMG has spent approximately £341 million through the Africa Conflict Prevention Pool. This is broken down by year in the table:

	£ million
2001-02	19.7
2002-03	45.3
2003-04	47.2
2004-05	63.7
2005-06	46.2
2006-07	57
2007-08	60

Burma: HIV Infection

John Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how much has been allocated by the Three Diseases Fund to tackle HIV/AIDS in Kachin state, Burma, since the fund was established. [265854]

Mr. Michael Foster: Since it was established, the Three Diseases Fund has allocated US$2,272,000 to HIV/AIDS projects in Kachin State, Burma.

Burma: Overseas Aid

John Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development through which United Nations organisations his Department channels funding for Burma-related aid and activities; and how much was channelled by his Department through each such organisation in the last 12 months. [265855]

Mr. Michael Foster: During the 2008-09 financial year, the Department for International Development (DFID) has channelled funding for Burma through UN organisations as follows:

Cyclone Nargis emergency response:

Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO)—£2,271,179

International Labour Organisation (ILO)—£590,810

UN Children's Fund (UNICEF)—£750,000

UN Development Programme (UNDP)—£1,850,000

UN Habitat—£250,000

UN Habitat and UNDP jointly—£600,000

UN Office for the Co-ordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA)—£300,000

World Food Programme (WFP)—£12,000,000

World Health Organisation (WHO)—£250,000.

Regular country programme:

UN Children's Fund (UNICEF)—£1,560,000

UN Development Programme (UNDP)—£1,509,565

UN Office for Project Services (UNOPS), for the Three Diseases Fund—£4,500,000

UN Office for the Co-ordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA)—£550,000

World Food Programme (WFP)—£350,000.

Conflict Prevention Pool

Mr. Moore: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what recent discussions he has had with his international counterparts on the future of the Conflict Prevention Pool; and if he will make a statement. [266080]

Mr. Michael Foster: I refer the hon. Member to the written ministerial statement made by my right hon. Friend, the Foreign Secretary on 25 March 2009, *Official Report*, columns 17-18WS.

John Barrett: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what his Department's priority areas are for the Conflict Prevention Pool. [266141]

Mr. Michael Foster: The Department for International Development's (DFID) priority areas for the Conflict Prevention Pool are consistent with those set out in PSA 30:

> A downward trend in the number of conflicts globally, in particular in sub-Saharan Africa, Europe, Central and South Asia, and the Middle East and North Africa;
>
> Reduced impact of conflict in specific countries and regions (Afghanistan, Iraq—funded through the Stabilisation Aid Fund, Balkans, Middle East, Sierra Leone, Democratic Republic of Congo and the Great Lakes region, Horn of Africa, Nigeria and Sudan);
>
> More effective international institutions, better able to prevent, manage and resolve conflict and build peace.

DFID remains focused on those countries and regions considered at most risk of instability in Africa, South Asia, the Middle East and Europe. The Foreign Secretary's written ministerial statement of 25 March, *Official Report*, columns 17-18WS, sets out specific priorities and changes to conflict funding in 2009-10.

John Barrett: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what proportion of the Conflict Prevention Pool funding is being spent in sub-Saharan Africa in 2008-09. [266142]

Mr. Michael Foster: The Conflict Prevention Pool is forecast to spend £68 million on sub-Saharan Africa from an overall Conflict Prevention Pool budget of £112 million in 2008-09. This works out at around 60 per cent. of the total budget.

John Barrett: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what steps his Department is taking to ensure that Conflict Prevention Pool funds are not duplicated by spending by *(a)* other Government departments and *(b)* international partners. [266143]

Mr. Michael Foster: The Conflict Prevention Pool (CPP) is managed and governed at all levels tri-departmentally between the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO), the Department for International Development (DFID) and the Ministry of Defence (MOD). This minimises the possibility of duplicating our spending with other Government departments with all projects approved by tri-departmental boards and with all three departments engaged at the country or project level.

Programme teams have long-established relationships with partner organisations and have a good understanding of our international partner interests in a region. Interventions are designed from the start to complement and not duplicate spending by other international partners.

Mr. Moore: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what his Department's plans are for the future of the Conflict Prevention Pool. [267305]

Mr. Michael Foster: I refer the hon. Member to the written ministerial statement made by my right hon. Friend, the Foreign Secretary on 25 March 2009, *Official Report*, columns 17-18WS.

Departmental Detergents

Annette Brooke: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development if he will make it his policy to ensure that no cleaning products or ingredients of cleaning products used by his Department have been tested on animals. [261123]

Mr. Michael Foster: The Department for International Development (DFID) will ensure that any future contracts let for cleaning services in the United Kingdom contain a provision that cleaning products used by the contractor have, wherever possible, not been tested on animals. Our existing contractors have assured us that the products they currently use have not been tested on animals.

Departmental Empty Property

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what estimate he has made of the change in the annual cost to his Department of maintaining the empty public buildings owned by his Department as a result of the April 2008 changes to empty property rate relief. [267125]

Mr. Michael Foster: This change does not affect the Department for International Development (DFID) as we have no empty buildings.

Kosovo: Politics and Government

Mr. Bowell: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what steps his Department is taking in conjunction with allies and international agencies to encourage community and inter-communal development in Kosovo. [266084]

Mr. Michael Foster: The Department for International Development (DFID) works as part of the overall British Government effort to encourage community and inter-communal development in Kosovo through implementation of the UN-sponsored plan for Kosovo's supervised independence (the Ahtisaari Plan). Principles of protection and promotion of the rights of members of communities are now enshrined in Kosovo's constitution.

DFID's activities help the Government of Kosovo establish effective state institutions as well as develop and implement policies for sustainable growth and employment. These activities complement those under the FCO-MoD-DFID Conflict Prevention Pool for the resolution of war-related property disputes, help in establishing a communities consultative council to strengthen ethnic communities' voice in policy making, and outreach to Serb communities to explain the benefits of the Ahtisaari plan.

DFID co-ordinates closely with international partners—the European Commission, World Bank, other bilateral donors—in order to improve the effectiveness of assistance to the Government of Kosovo and communities. Conflict Prevention Pool funding has been used to help UNDP start a programme for civic development in the divided town of Mitrovice and fund a UNDP led programme to support returns of Serb refugees.

RMS St. Helena

Bob Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development on what dates *(a)* the discussions on the construction of RMS St. Helena commenced, *(b)* the approval for construction was given, *(c)* construction started and *(d)* the vessel commenced her maiden voyage. [266054]

Mr. Michael Foster: Economic Consultants Ltd. carried out an options study into the replacement for the original RMS St. Helena in 1984.

Approval for her construction was given in November 1987, and a contract was signed with Hall Russell for her construction in December 1988. Her maiden voyage commenced in November 1990.

Bob Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what the projected *(a)* lifespan and *(b)* cost of RMS St. Helena was when it was commissioned; and what the cost to the public purse was on completion. [266055]

Mr. Michael Foster: While there is no definitive figure, the RMS St. Helena could be expected to have an economic lifespan of 20 to 25 years. The RMS St. Helena has now reached a stage where Lloyds Registry and the Marine and Coastguard Agency require annual inspections in dry dock to maintain her Class 1 Passenger certificate.

The original contract with Hall Russell for the construction of the RMS St. Helena was signed in the amount of £19.4 million. The final cost to the public purse following completion of the work by Appledore after Hall Russell went into receivership was £31.8 million.

Bob Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what discussions he has had with the Chancellor of the Exchequer on *(a)* funding of an airport on the island of St. Helena, *(b)* the replacement of RMS St. Helena, *(c)* the comparative economic benefits to the island's economy from each form of access by (i) sea and (ii) air and (d) the cost to the public purse of the subsidy to sustain the (A) population and (B) economy of St. Helena; and if he will make a statement. [266058]

Mr. Michael Foster: Routine discussions have taken place with Treasury at official level from April 2008.

Bob Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what consideration he has given to the procurement of a vessel to replace RMS St. Helena. [266060]

Mr. Michael Foster: The option of replacing the RMS St. Helena was considered as part of Atkins' 2005 feasibility study.

No decision will be taken on whether to replace the RMS St. Helena pending the completion of the public consultation we announced on 16 March.

Bob Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how much has been spent on *(a)* repairs to and *(b)* maintenance of RMS St. Helena in each of the last 10 years; and what estimate he has made of the cost to the public purse of (i) renewal, (ii) refurbishment, (iii) repairs and (iv) maintenance for each of the remaining years of the vessel's anticipated life. [266061]

Mr. Michael Foster: Annual maintenance costs (including repairs) for the RMS St. Helena over the last 10-years are set out in the following table. These do not include consumables (paint etc.).

	Maintenance/repair cost (£)
1999-2000	[1]380,000
2000-01	[1]420,000
2001-02	463,000
2002-03	512,000
2003-04	[2]939,000
2004-05	556,000
2005-06	540,000
2006-07	[2]925,000
2007-08	707,000
2008-09	[1]1,079,000

[1] Estimated costs as accounts not broken down.

[2] Includes dry dock.

A replacement vessel is estimated to cost between £35 million and £75 million, depending on the country of origin.

An additional capital investment of approximately £2.5 million in 2009-10 would be required for refurbishment the engines and for repairs to essential steelwork to extend the working life of the ship to around 2015.

In addition to this, annual maintenance costs are expected to be of the order of £1.2 million per annum (inclusive of annual dry dock required to maintain certification).

Bob Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development if he will estimate the cost to the public purse of a replacement vessel for RMS St. Helena. [266062]

Mr. Michael Foster: Estimates carried out during the 2005 feasibility study and updated in 2007 put the cost of a replacement vessel at between approximately £35 million and £75 million, depending on the country of origin. No decision will be taken on whether to replace the RMS St. Helena pending the completion of the public consultation I announced on 16 March.

St. Helena: Airports

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development whether he plans to visit St Helena before reaching a decision on the possible construction on an airport on the island. [267104]

Mr. Michael Foster: The ministerial team have no plans to visit St. Helena.

Written Answers to Questions

Monday 30 March 2009

SCOTLAND

Departmental Internet

Mr. MacNeil: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what the cost of the recent redesign of the Scotland Office's website was. [267532]

Ann McKechin: The Scotland Office and the Office of the Advocate-General jointly tendered for the redevelopment of both their websites. We went through a competitive tendering process following the principles of Government procurement. The cost for both websites was £12,880 plus VAT.

The redevelopment of the sites includes a comprehensive in-house content management system which represents considerable value for money and costs savings for both offices, both now and in the future.

Mr. MacNeil: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what the cost was of updating the official portraits on his Department's website during its recent update. [267587]

Ann McKechin: The portraits used on the new website were taken from existing photography.

Departmental Training

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland how many *(a)* staff and *(b)* Ministerial away days have been organised by his Department in each of the last five years; and what the cost of such events was in each year. [266212]

Ann McKechin: The Scotland Office held one staff away day in 2005-06 and one in 2006-07. Information on the costs prior to 2006-07 are not separately identifiable; however, in 2006-07 the total cost of the staff away day was £6,834. No ministerial away days have been held in the last five years.

Departmental Travel

Mr. MacNeil: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what travel *(a)* he and *(b)* the Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Scotland undertook in respect of attendance at the Scottish Labour Party conference on 7 and 8 April 2009. [267531]

Ann McKechin: The Scotland Office did not make any travel arrangements for either the Secretary of State or the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State regarding their attendance at the Scottish Labour Party Conference.

TRANSPORT

Aviation: Safety

Mr. Gordon Prentice: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport pursuant to the Air Accident Investigation Branch's interim report of 13 March 2009 on the incident at Heathrow Airport on 17 January 2008, when he expects the modifications to the Rolls Royce Trent 800 engine to prevent critical power loss due to ice crystals to be made to all aircraft with that engine operating from the UK; and if he will make a statement. [264349]

Jim Fitzpatrick: Boeing and Rolls Royce are already working to develop appropriate modifications to the B777 aircraft and the Fuel Oil Heat Exchanger on the Rolls Royce Trent 800 engine. Once the modifications have been developed they will need to be approved by the European Aviation Safety Agency (EASA). The Civil Aviation Authority will then ensure that UK airlines make the modifications within the timescale set by EASA.

Since the accident at Heathrow in January 2008 Boeing has developed a range of changes to the aircrafts operating procedures to ensure that aircraft crews can minimise and manage any risk associated with potential ice accumulation in the fuel system. These procedures have been approved by EASA and the US Federal Aviation Administration (US FAA) and have been made mandatory for all US and European airlines. Both EASA and the US FAA are content that, subject to the application of these procedures, B777 aircraft with Rolls Royce Trent engines are safe to remain in service. When a Delta Airlines Boeing 777 experienced an uncommanded power reduction in a single engine on 26 November 2008 the procedures were shown to be effective and thrust control of the engine was recovered.

Departmental Detergents

Annette Brooke: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will make it his policy to ensure that no cleaning products or ingredients of cleaning products used by his Department have been tested on animals. [261119]

Mr. Hoon: The Department for Transport is a federated organisation comprising a central Department and seven Executive agencies and does not procure cleaning products or ingredients centrally. All procurement within the Department is undertaken in line with the European Union's procurement rules and to obtain value for money.

Departmental Public Appointments

Julia Goldsworthy: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport which former *(a)* hon. Members who left Parliament since 1997 and *(b)* Members of the House of Lords from each party have been appointed to positions on public bodies within his Department's responsibility; and who made each appointment. [266793]

Mr. Hoon *[holding answer 26 March 2009]:* This information is not held centrally. Information on board membership is published in individual bodies' annual reports and accounts.

Departmental Training

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what training courses *(a)* civil servants and *(b)* Ministers in his Department have undertaken in the last 12 months. [266268]

Mr. Hoon: Employees of the central Department and its agencies undertook the following internally available training during the last 12 months:

- Absence Management
- Accountancy
- Assessment Centre Training
- Customer Service
- Data Protection
- Diversity Awareness
- Avoiding Harassment and Bullying
- Driving Examiner Assessment
- Coaching
- Emergency Officer Training
- Coastguard Training
- Employment Law
- Communication—Oral and Written Skills
- European Union Training
- Coping with Traumatic Incidents
- Finance and Audit
- Health and Safety
- Programme and Project Management
- Impact Assessment
- Recruitment and Selection Interviewing
- Induction for New Entrants
- Risk Assessment Training
- Information Technology
- Stress Management
- Interviewee Skills
- Talent Management
- Language Courses
- Telephone Skills
- Leadership Skills
- Traffic Officer Service Training
- Manual Handling Training
- Transport Security Officer Training
- Marine Vessel Inspection
- Vehicle Safety and Inspection
- Marine Search and Rescue
- Mentoring
- Parliamentary Process
- Performance Management
- Personal Development
- Personal Effectiveness
- Pre-Retirement Courses
- Procurement
- Professional Qualifications

Training with external companies is also available to Department for Transport employees, pending line manager approval. Details of external training is available only at disproportionate cost.

With regards to ministerial training, I refer the hon. Member to my answer of 28 October 2008, *Official Report*, column 835W, and 3 February 2009, *Official Report*, column 1125W.

M1: Speed Limits

Mr. Greg Knight: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what plans he has to introduce variable speed limits on the M1 motorway; what the timescale for introduction of such limits is; on which stretches of the motorway it is planned to introduce them; and if he will make a statement. [267372]

Paul Clark: It is proposed that variable mandatory speed limits will be introduced on certain sections of the M1 motorway. The following table provides detail of the proposed stretches and the expected implementation dates.

M1 section/scheme	*Implementation of variable mandatory speed limit*
M1 J6A-10	2009-10
M1 J10-13	2013-14
M1 J25-28	2010-11
M1 J28-31	2014-15
M1 J32-35a	2012-13
M1 J39-42	2014-15

The purpose of implementing variable mandatory speed limits (VMSL) is to improve the throughput during congested periods, smooth the flow of traffic, improve driver information, reduce secondary accidents and improve journey time reliability.

Motor Vehicles

Stephen Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport pursuant to the answer of 9 March 2009, *Official Report*, column 12W, on motor vehicles, if he will publish the results of the research from the recent comparison of the Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency vehicle register and motor insurance database when it is available. [265942]

Jim Fitzpatrick: Yes. The information will be placed in the Libraries of the House when available.

Motorcycles: Driving Instruction

Mr. Goodwill: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many motorcyclists took a second or subsequent Compulsory Basic Training course in each month since April 2007. [267708]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The Department for Transport's agencies do not record how many motorcyclists take a second or subsequent compulsory basic training course.

Motorcycles: Driving Tests

Mr. Goodwill: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many candidates took the practical motorcycle driving test in each month since October 2008. [267710]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The information requested is as follows:

Month	*Candidates*
October 2008	7,898
November 2008	7,475
December 2008	5,484
January 2009	4,850
February 2009	5,367

Park and Ride Schemes: Bridlington

Mr. Greg Knight: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what estimate he has made of the public expenditure requirement arising from construction and implementation of the proposed Bridlington park and ride scheme. [267371]

Paul Clark: The estimated cost of the construction and implementation of the Bridlington Integrated Transport Plan, including the Park and Ride element, is £6,318,380 of which the Department for Transport will provide £5,428,799.

I understand that East Riding of Yorkshire council are anticipating that the service will make an operating profit.

Railways: Freight

Hugh Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what his Department's policy is on the positioning of rail freight interchanges on motorways; and if he will make a statement. [266844]

Paul Clark *[holding answer 26 March 2009]:* The Strategic Rail Authority document, "Strategic Rail Freight Interchange Policy", published March 2004, states that rail freight interchanges should have

> "high quality links to the motorway and trunk road network".

This document is still the basis for the Department for Transport's policy on rail freight interchanges.

Hugh Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport where he has discussed the proposed Kent International Gateway development with Kent Highways; and if he will make a statement. [266846]

Paul Clark *[holding answer 26 March 2009]:* Officials in the Highways Agency have discussed the proposed Kent International Gateway development with Kent Highways (part of Kent county council) at regular liaison meetings held at the agency's office in Dorking, at Maidstone borough council's offices in Maidstone and at the offices of Maidstone borough council's technical advisers Jacobs in London.

Roads: Construction

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will take steps to ensure that future Design, Build, Finance and Operate contracts do not include incentives to increase traffic flows as a means of increasing revenue for the successful bidder. [267168]

Paul Clark *[holding answer 26 March 2009]:* The shadow toll payment mechanism, which involved a usage element, has not been used on Design, Build, Finance and Operate (DBFO) schemes since 1996, when the first eight Highways Agency DBFO contracts were awarded. Details of the payment mechanisms in the DBFO contracts let after 1996 can be found on the Highways Agency website at:

http://www.highways.gov.uk/roads/2992.aspx

The M25 DBFO project includes incentives for lane availability, to maintain the road to an appropriate standard and to maintain and improve journey time reliability.

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what threshold of penalty points above which a contract may be cancelled was set for each Design, Build, Finance and Operate contract let by his Department since 1997; how many penalty points have been accrued against each such contract to date; and how many such contracts have been terminated as a result of the threshold having been breached. [267169]

Paul Clark *[holding answer 26 March 2009]:* The Highways Agency have let three Design, Build, Finance and Operate contracts since 1997, they are the A1 Darrington to Dishforth (A1DD), A249 Stockbury to Sheerness and the A13 Thames Gateway project which has been transferred to Transport for London.

The penalty point threshold for the A1 Darrington to Dishforth and A249 Stockbury to Sheerness Design, Build, Finance and Operate contracts is 100 penalty points or more in any one year. This leads to the Highways Agency having several options, one of which is termination of the contract.

The number of penalty points accrued against each contract to date is:

	Penalty points
A1DD	32
A249	69

No contracts have been terminated as the thresholds giving rise to the option to terminate have never been exceeded.

HOUSE OF COMMONS COMMISSION

Digital Technology

Andrew Miller: To ask the hon. Member for North Devon, representing the House of Commons Commission what proposals the House of Commons Commission has considered in respect of in relation to the use of digital technology to encourage wider public involvement in *(a)* the work of select committees and *(b)* the legislative process; and if he will make a statement. [267444]

Nick Harvey: The House has increasingly used digital technology to encourage wider public involvement in the work of Parliament. Select committees have built on the web pages that each has on:

www.parliament.uk

and use new interactive tools to access views and opinions from a much broader audience. Since May 2007 the Parliament Web Centre has set up and managed 14 web forums (eConsultations) on behalf of select or joint committees. Outside organisations and individuals can now not only follow and learn about committee activity online, but can also submit their evidence digitally and watch the committee hearings as they happen or archived on:

www.parliamentlive.tv

Forums have been particularly successful in increasing the level of engagement. Their use has been consistently encouraged by the Liaison Committee, most recently in its report on the Work of Committees in 2007-08 (HC 291) at para. 105.

In terms of the legislative process, enhancements to online bills and related information have significantly improved access to the legislative process for the wider public:

http://services.parliament.uk/bills

Further improvements later this year will include bill texts showing amendments made in Committee. Work is continuing on clause-by-clause indexing of bills and on simultaneous presentation of explanatory notes with bill text. We will also soon launch explanatory content on the passage of a bill through Parliament.

The Web Centre has also used Twitter and Flickr as channels which can engage with people about the work of Parliament. UK Parliament now has more than 4,000 followers on Twitter and 100,000 visitors to Flickr who can follow the work of committees as well as the progress of legislation. Further proposals for the use of social media and networks to engage people with the work of Parliament and its committees are also being considered.

Disability Discrimination Act 1995

Tom Brake: To ask the hon. Member for North Devon, representing the House of Commons Commission whether buildings occupied by the House and its staff are subject to the provisions of the Disability Discrimination Act 1995. [266439]

Nick Harvey: Section 65(1) of the Disability Discrimination Act 1995 makes provision in relation to the application of the Act to the House of Commons, further qualified by section 21B. The interpretation of these sections is a matter for the courts. The House seeks to apply the principles of the DDA and much has been done around the estate to improve accessibility and facilities for people with disabilities.

Members: Allowances

Mr. Chope: To ask the hon. Member for North Devon, representing the House of Commons Commission on what date the annual totals for hon. and right hon. Members' allowances for 2007-08 will be published. [268228]

Nick Harvey: On 30 March at around 2 pm. The information will be available via a link from the home page at:

www.parliament.uk

Parking: Disabled

Tom Brake: To ask the hon. Member for North Devon, representing the House of Commons Commission how many disabled parking spaces on the House Estate are available for the use of visiting members of the public. [266438]

Nick Harvey: We do not have designated car parking spaces for visiting members of the public or non-pass holders, because of security concerns and pressure on space on the estate. The Serjeant at Arms Office is sometimes able to make special arrangements for parking by disabled visitors, if the limited number of slots provided for Members and staff with mobility problems are not all in use (for example on non-sitting days or during parliamentary recess). In such cases, special arrangements for security search are made. If parking on the estate cannot be provided, disabled parking spaces are available in the nearby NCP car park at Abingdon road (opposite the Black Rod Garden entrance to the estate).

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Agriculture: Foreign Workers

Damian Green: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what representations he has received on the availability of sheep shearers from non-EU countries in summer 2009; and if he will make a statement. [266385]

Jane Kennedy: DEFRA has received a limited number of inquiries regarding the availability of sheep shearers from non-EU countries for summer 2009.

I am aware that the visa requirements for bringing in sheep shearers from outside the EU have changed following the introduction of tier 2 of the points based system for economic migrants in 2008. As a result of the introduction of tier 2, sheep shearers who are not visa nationals now have to apply for entry clearance prior to travel, even where they are coming to the UK for less than six months. The industry has made representations concerning compliance with these requirements, but we are not aware that the new entry requirements are so far causing any problems in terms of a lack of shearers leading to animal health and welfare issues. However, we will continue to monitor the situation.

Immigration requirements do recognise the current need to employ workers for this purpose from overseas and to expedite procedures for their admission. On the advice of the Migration Advisory Committee, sheep shearers have been added to the UK Border Agency's list of occupations of which there is a shortage and, as a result, sponsors of such workers from overseas are not required to demonstrate that they have sought to fill such vacancies with a resident worker.

Agriculture: Pollution Control

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment he has made of the effectiveness of his Department's policy on minimising pollution from arable farms. [263585]

Jane Kennedy: Under the Nitrate Pollution Prevention Regulations 2008, farmers in areas of the country designated as nitrate-vulnerable zones (NVZs) have to comply with a set of mandatory rules regarding the use and management of manure and nitrogen fertiliser for the purpose of reducing water pollution caused by nitrates from agricultural sources. The Department has established a project to evaluate the effectiveness of these regulations at tackling nitrate pollution. The evaluation of the effectiveness of the original set of NVZ rules (established by regulations in 1998) is available on the DEFRA website at:

http://www.defra.gov.uk/environment/water/quality/nitrate/pdf/consultation-supportdocs/g3-nit18-report.pdf

In addition, within DEFRA's agri-environment schemes—Environmental Stewardship and the predecessor schemes Countryside Stewardship and Environmentally Sensitive Areas—funding is available for environmental management which will contribute to improving water quality, including, for instance, the use of buffer strips, and the management of maize crops on arable land. Other options in Environmental Stewardship, such as beetle banks and under sown spring cereals, may also contribute to reducing diffuse pollution. In 2010 it is currently planned to introduce further resource protection options into Environmental Stewardship, such as wider buffer strips and the use of cover crops. These schemes are subject to regular evaluations.

Agriculture: Subsidies

Tim Farron: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much was paid in export refunds for dairy products in each of the last five years. [266458]

Jane Kennedy *[holding answer 25 March 2009]:* The amount paid in export refunds for milk and milk products in each of the last five years can be found in the following table:

Date	*Milk and milk products (£)*
2004	66,924,534.65
2005	46,310,869.15
2006	19,400,665.96
2007	6,332,908.51
2008	0

Agriculture: Working Hours

Mr. Ancram: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if he will make an assessment of the likely effects of the implementation of the European Working Time Directive on the numbers of seasonal workers required by farmers to assist them with harvesting. [265328]

Jane Kennedy: The Working Time Directive has been implemented since 1998 and we are not aware that it has had any noticeable impact on the requirements of the agricultural industry for seasonal workers.

Revisions to the Working Time Directive are currently being negotiated in Europe. In these discussions, the UK Government are strongly supporting retention of the individual's right to opt-out of the 48-hour working week, an important flexibility used by workers in many sectors, including agriculture. We, along with many other member states, believe that workers should have the right to work longer hours if they choose to do so and have pressed this point successfully to Council during the negotiations.

Animals: Circuses

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what progress has been made on his Department's study of the use of animals in circuses. [267636]

Jane Kennedy: During the last 12 months DEFRA has been carrying out a feasibility study on whether it is necessary to regulate the use of non-domesticated animals in circuses. A report is due later in the spring.

Bovine Tuberculosis: Disease Control

Mr. Paice: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs pursuant to the answer of 23 March 2009, *Official Report*, columns 44-46W, on bovine tuberculosis, for how many head of cattle he has budgeted for compensation payments for reactors and contact animals in 2009-10. [267468]

Jane Kennedy: We do not estimate compensation spend solely on the basis of head of cattle since spend is demand led and much will depend on the disease situation and prevailing cattle prices (since compensation payments are linked to market prices). The estimate of £23 million provided in the answer of 23 March 2009, *Official Report*, columns 44-46W, is based on what was spent in previous years and the spending pattern in the current year (forecast spend for 2008-09, net of receipts, is £25.7 million). The estimate includes payments to cattle-owners and haulage costs, and was offset by salvage receipts.

Compost

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) what research he has commissioned on the potential health effects of composting; [264863]

(2) if he will make an assessment of the potential health effects of composting. [265749]

Jane Kennedy: DEFRA has commissioned the following research:

Review of environmental and health effects of waste management: municipal solid waste and similar wastes (carried out by Enviros Consulting Ltd and the University of Birmingham, 2004)

Exposure-response relationships for bioaerosol emissions from waste treatment processes (WR0606, carried out by the Institute of Occupational Medicine, 2008), which is currently undergoing peer review.

The Environment Agency has also undertaken the following research on the health effects of composting:

Health effects of composting: a study of three compost sites and review of past data (carried out by AEA Technology, 2001)

Monitoring the environmental impact of waste composting plants (2001)

The Health and Safety Executive has undertaken the following research:

Occupational and environmental exposure to bio-aerosols from composts and health effects (carried out by The Composting Association and Health and Safety Laboratory, 2003)

Where appropriate, this completed research is incorporated into existing regulation and policy in relation to composting. There are at present no plans to carry out further research, although this will be kept under review.

Domestic Waste: Recycling

Chris McCafferty: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs whether an organisation collecting household recycling in one local authority area is able to sell those recycling credits to another local authority which is not meeting its recycling targets. [264949]

Jane Kennedy *[holding answer 23 March 2009]*: Local authorities have a power (not a duty) to pay recycling credits to third parties. These credits are payments in respect of waste for recycling or reuse which would otherwise have been dealt with by the local authority. Local authorities are expected to have in place controls that, among other things, ensure that the credits claimed relate to waste collected in their area.

Julia Goldsworthy: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many and what proportion of local authorities he expects will meet the target of 40 per cent. recycling and composting of household waste by 2010. [266248]

Jane Kennedy *[holding answer 24 March 2009]*: The target of 40 per cent. recycling and composting of household waste by 2010 is a national target set out in the Waste Strategy for England 2007. This will be achieved by combining the recycling and composting rates of all local authorities in England.

Local authorities that face practical barriers, such as serving large numbers of apartment blocks or multi-occupancy houses, should not necessarily be expected to achieve the same level of recycling as those whose areas are dominated by traditional housing stock.

Under the National Indicators method of monitoring local authority performance, introduced by CLG in April 2008, each local authority chooses 35 indicators to be improvement targets. Of the 68 local authorities (out of a total of 394) that have chosen NI192 (recycling and composting rate) as a target, 35 have set the level at 40 per cent. or higher.

The latest audited data available show that the proportion of household waste recycled in England in 2007-08 was 34.5 per cent., an increase of 3.6 per cent. over the 2006-07 figure.

Food Supply

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what method his Department uses to calculate the level of *(a)* domestic self-sufficiency in food production and *(b)* domestic food consumption; and what the level of each was in each of the last 20 years. [261635]

Jane Kennedy: Self-Sufficiency in food is calculated as UK food production, adjusted for trade in agricultural inputs of feed, seed and livestock, as a proportion of UK food consumption. The measure is based on the farm-gate value of unprocessed food.

The formula used is:

$$[\text{Self-Sufficiency}] = \frac{[\text{Adjusted UK food production}]}{[\text{UK food production}] + [\text{Food imports}] - [\text{Food exports}]}$$

A related measure is the proportion of UK Consumption Produced in the UK, which is calculated as food produced and consumed in the UK as a proportion of UK food consumption. As with the measure of self-sufficiency this is based on the farm-gate value of unprocessed food.

The formula used is:

$$[\text{Proportion of UK Consumption Produced in the UK}] = \frac{[\text{UK food production}] - [\text{Food exports}]}{[\text{UK food production}] + [\text{Food imports}] - [\text{Food exports}]}$$

Both the calculations for Self-Sufficiency and the Proportion of UK Consumption Produced in the UK use the same data sources. Food production data are sourced from DEFRA's UK agricultural accounts. Import and export data are provided by HMRC. Revaluation factors are applied to trade data to convert the value of processed goods back to the farm-gate value of their raw ingredients, and these are constructed from ONS input-output tables.

The two calculations are similar but have two important differences. The main difference is that Self-Sufficiency includes food that the UK exports, which could have been consumed, whereas the Proportion of UK Consumption Produced in the UK looks purely at the breakdown of food that the UK does actually consume. A further, much smaller difference is the adjustment made to UK food production in the Self Sufficiency calculation.

UK self sufficiency in food and proportion of UK consumption produced in the UK

			Percentage
	Self-sufficiency in all food	*Self-sufficiency in indigenous food*	*Proportion of UK consumption produced in the UK*
1988	71.1	82.6	66.3
1989	74.8	86.9	66.8
1990	73.6	85.0	66.2
1991	75.3	86.7	66.5
1992	73.9	85.1	64.2
1993	73.5	85.4	63.3
1994	73.5	86.1	62.7
1995	73.8	86.7	61.8
1996	70.0	83.2	59.9
1997	68.2	81.6	57.5
1998	67.3	81.5	55.7
1999	67.6	81.6	56.6
2000	66.8	80.3	56.3
2001	62.7	75.1	55.6
2002	62.5	75.5	53.8
2003	63.6	76.7	53.3
2004	62.5	75.1	53.2
2005	60.1	73.1	50.6
2006	59.0	72.0	48.9
2007	59.4	72.4	49.7
2008	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—

[1] 2008 figures not available yet. 2008 Self-Sufficiency figures to be published online in Agriculture in the UK on 26 March 2009.

Mr. Kidney: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if he will bring forward a programme of measures to ensure security of supply of *(a)* food and *(b)* water resources for the UK during the period 2010 to 2030. [266145]

Jane Kennedy: DEFRA published a discussion paper in July last year entitled "Ensuring UK Food Security in a Changing World". This has contributed to the debate on the long-term challenges to our food security such as climate change, increased demand and population growth, and the energy dependence of our food supply. The Government are taking a risk-based approach to ensuring we remain food secure in the UK, and is consulting on indicators to provide timely information about the key components of our food security.

This work is proceeding with efforts that DEFRA is leading jointly with the Department of Health and the Food Standards Agency to define a vision for a sustainable food system. This vision will complement the work of the foresight study led by the Government's chief scientific adviser to examine how our inter-dependent world can feed nine billion people sustainably, healthily and equitably by 2050.

The Government have introduced a requirement on the water companies in England and Wales to prepare water resources management plans. These plans will show the measures needed to ensure secure water supplies for the period 2010-35. The plans have been consulted upon in draft; statements of responses to the consultation have been published for all English companies. In light of the statements, Ministers will consider the need for hearings or inquiries, and whether or not to direct changes to plans before they are finalised.

Food: Exports

Tim Farron: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what estimate he has made of the amount of domestic *(a)* meat, *(b)* eggs, *(c)* bread, *(d)* wheat, *(e)* fruit, *(f)* vegetables, *(g)* milk and *(h)* total food production that was exported in each year since 1997. [264583]

Jane Kennedy *[holding answer 19 March 2009]*: Estimates of the volume of exports for meat, eggs, bread, wheat, fruit, vegetables and milk are shown in table 1.

Exports of food, animal feed and alcoholic drinks are shown in table 2. These are presented in £ million, in real terms at 2007 prices. All figures other than bread are published in "Agriculture in the United Kingdom".

The figures shown may include re-exports of imported produce.

Table 1: UK exports of various commodities

Figures in thousand tonnes except milk in million litres and eggs in million dozens

	1997	*1998*	*1999*	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*
Meat	614	641	580	523	280	400	443	474	481	499	574
Liquid drinking milk	85	136	203	156	63	67	193	251	485	512	423
Eggs	26	27	12	15	10	16	16	13	13	18	17
Wheat	3,720	4,208	2,853	3,672	1,626	1,625	3,778	2,293	2,466	2,116	1,912
Fruit	72	69	74	60	74	70	79	106	121	178	148
Vegetables	280	77	91	99	103	113	103	93	88	83	88
Bread	61	61	63	69	85	72	58	69	63	65	86

Table 2: UK exports of food, animal feed and alcoholic drinks in real terms at 2007 prices

	£ million
1997	12,891
1998	11,664
1999	11,092
2000	10,557
2001	10,140
2002	10,453
2003	11,260
2004	10,736
2005	10,698
2006	10,955
2007	11,379

Food: Prices

Mr. Paice: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what the average UK farm-gate price for *(a)* milling wheat, *(b)* milk and milk products, *(c)* beef and veal, *(d)* pigmeat, *(e)* lamb and *(f)* apples was in each of the last 10 years; what import tariff was charged on imports of each product from each region or supporting country in each such year; and what information his Department holds on average world market prices for each product in each such year. [264782]

Jane Kennedy *[holding answer 23 March 2009]*: Average UK farm-gate prices for milling wheat and milk are shown in the following table. UK farm-gate prices of milk products are not available, so wholesale prices have been provided instead.

	Milling wheat (£ per tonne)	*Milk (Pence per litre)*	*Butter (unsalted) (£ per tonne)*	*SMP (£ per tonne)*	*Mild Cheddar (£ per tonne)*	*Mature Cheddar (£ per tonne)*	*Bulk cream (£ per tonne)*
1999	81	18.3	—	—	—	—	—
2000	74	16.9	1,942	1,707	2,102	2,425	968
2001	79	19.3	1,893	1,501	2,244	2,617	919
2002	75	17.1	1,831	1,288	1,794	2,217	852
2003	76	18.0	2,044	1,407	1,985	2,121	974
2004	87	18.5	1,997	1,424	2,100	2,375	928
2005	76	18.5	1,886	1,408	2,079	2,400	868

	Milling wheat (£ per tonne)	*Milk (Pence per litre)*	*Butter (unsalted) (£ per tonne)*	*SMP (£ per tonne)*	*Mild Cheddar (£ per tonne)*	*Mature Cheddar (£ per tonne)*	*Bulk cream (£ per tonne)*
2006	76	17.9	1,723	1,436	1,967	2,400	796
2007	108	20.7	2,283	2,136	2,427	2,717	1,051
2008	151	25.9	2,102	2,034	2,817	3,300	918

Source:
HGCA, DEFRA statistics, RPA.

The average UK farm-gate prices for beef and veal, pig meat, mutton and lamb and apples can be found in the following table.

	Beef and veal (Pence per kg dressed carcase weight)	*Pig meat (Pence per kg dressed carcase weight)*	*Mutton and lamb (Pence per kg dressed carcase weight)*	*Dessert apples (£ per tonne)*	*Culinary apples (£ per tonne)*
1999	161	76	152	437	249
2000	158	91	167	358	215
2001	155	95	166	352	176
2002	160	90	203	385	286
2003	167	99	226	460	472
2004	177	100	222	412	359
2005	181	100	205	419	317
2006	187	102	213	434	379
2007	188	104	194	468	373
2008	243	122	240	540	452

Source:
AHDB, DEFRA Statistics and Agriculture in the United Kingdom https://statistics.defra.gov.uk/esg/publications/auk/default.asp

Annual import tariffs

Schedules of customs duties are published regularly by the EU Commission in the Official Journal of the EU. Average tariffs rates for high quality common wheat are shown in the following table. Equivalent rates for other commodities are not available.

	High quality common wheat (€ per tonne)
1999	36.48
2000	9.28
2001	0
2002	0
2003	1.16
2004	0
2005	0
2006	0
2007	0
2008	0

Source:
Official Journal, EU Commission.

World prices

World market prices for wheat and milk products can be found in the following table.

US$ per tonne

	Milling wheat	*Butter*	*SMP*	*WMP*	*Cheddar*
1999	117	—	—	—	—
2000	107	1,453	2,063	2,002	1,919
2001	117	1,252	1,983	1,947	2,163
2002	144	1,078	1,269	1,358	1,667
2003	139	1,393	1,727	1,762	1,889
2004	151	1,860	2,063	2,129	2,564
2005	138	1,971	2,240	2,245	2,829
2006	152	1,778	2,300	2,221	2,656
2007	278	2,921	4,254	4,258	4,052
2008	353	3,396	3,038	3,729	4,721

Source:
International Grains Council, DIN consultancy, DairyCo.

Indicative world market prices for beef, lamb and pork are shown in the following table. Prices for apples are not available.

US cents per pound

	Beef, Australian and New Zealand 85 per cent. lean fores, FOB US import price	*Swine (pork), 51-52 per cent. lean hogs, US price*	*Lamb, frozen carcass Smithfield London*
1999	83	44	116
2000	88	59	113
2001	97	61	130
2002	95	47	146
2003	90	53	160
2004	114	71	166
2005	119	68	161
2006	116	64	154
2007	118	64	162
2008	121	65	171

Source:
IMF.

Foot and Mouth Disease

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if he will take legal action against those responsible for the 2007 foot and mouth outbreak. [263537]

Jane Kennedy: The Secretary of State will not be taking any legal action in relation to this matter. The 2007 foot and mouth outbreak was investigated by

Surrey county council's trading standards service, and on 29 May 2008, the council announced that there was insufficient evidence to take legal action in respect of the outbreak.

Until 28 April 2008, when the Health and Safety Executive took over the responsibility, Surrey county council was the authority responsible for investigating and enforcing possible offences under the Animal Health Act 1981, including the provisions of the Specified Animal Pathogens Order 1998 that applied to the operation of the two laboratories at Pirbright.

Foxes: Urban Areas

Mr. Cox: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent reports he has received of groups or individuals releasing foxes captured in urban areas into the countryside; and if he will make a statement. [267748]

Jane Kennedy: From time-to-time DEFRA receives anecdotal reports of urban foxes being released into the countryside.

The Government do not condone the translocation of foxes from urban to rural areas. While it is not illegal under wildlife legislation to move foxes from one place to another as long as the provisions of the Animal Welfare Act 2006 are complied with, there are welfare concerns with releasing foxes into areas unfamiliar to them and the potential to spread disease. Under section 9 of the Animal Welfare Act 2006 it is an offence for a person to fail to provide for the welfare needs of an animal under his or her control. This includes failing to take reasonable steps to ensure that an animal has the ability to fend for itself in the wild on release. If it were found that an animal had suffered unnecessarily after release, it could also be an offence of causing unnecessary suffering under section 4 of the Animal Welfare Act 2006.

If it is suspected that an illegal activity has occurred this should be reported to the police.

Milk: Prices

Tim Farron: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what estimate he has made of the change in the average farmgate price for milk in each year since 1997. [264678]

Jane Kennedy: The average milk farm-gate price since 1997 can be found in the following table:

	Farm-gate price (pence per litre)
1997	21.96
1998	19.26
1999	18.31
2000	16.92
2001	19.25
2002	17.05
2003	18.01
2004	18.45
2005	18.46
2006	17.94
2007	20.66
2008	25.91

Oils: Waste Disposal

Bill Wiggin: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what estimate he has made of the effect on carbon dioxide emissions of the quantity of used cooking oil sent to landfill in the last 12 months. [266905]

Jane Kennedy: No such estimate has been made. The landfilling of all non-hazardous liquid waste has been banned since October 2007. Government policy is to encourage the recovery of all waste, including cooking oil.

Pigs

Mr. Ancram: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what estimate he has made of the number of pig farmers who ceased to trade in 2007-08. [265201]

Jane Kennedy: The June Survey of Agriculture and Horticulture does not collect figures on the number of farmers who have ceased trading. Figures from the survey indicate activity on registered holdings in England at June each year showing net change only. Larger pig businesses are likely to have a number of holdings where pigs are kept and this number can change from year to year.

	Specialist pig holdings (based on predominant activity)	*All holdings with pigs*	*Total pigs*
2007	2,453	9,686	3,943,444
2008	2,600	9,772	3,854,388

Source:
June Survey of Agriculture

Renewable Energy: Waste

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what guidance his Department has issued to local authorities on the production of biogas from municipal waste; and if he will make a statement. [267529]

Jane Kennedy: DEFRA has issued no specific guidance to local authorities on the production of biogas from municipal waste.

Trees: Disease Control

Mr. Ancram: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent steps he has taken to prevent the spread of *(a)* oak and *(b)* rhododendron diseases; and if he will make a statement. [265199]

Jane Kennedy: We recently announced the allocation of new money to support a five-year programme of work to manage and contain the risks of two plant diseases, Phytophthora ramorum and Phytophthora kernoviae, from spreading further. P. ramorum and P. kernoviae are fungus-like pathogens of plants. There is strong evidence that they both have the ability to kill trees in the UK, and have the potential to kill native heathland species and cause serious disease on some garden shrubs.

In addition to further research and development and an education and awareness programme, we will be looking to reduce the level of disease by removing infected and susceptible plants in woodlands and the wider environment. We will also work to identify and control any new outbreaks. Experience has shown that the eradication of Rhododendron ponticum (the main host for the diseases) is the most effective control measure to reduce disease spread in the wider environment. At a selected number of woodland sites, the clearance of all rhododendrons, whether infected or not, has proved effective and appears to have prevented further infection of trees on those sites.

Waste Disposal: Rural Areas

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what plans he has for the future provision of mechanisms for the disposal of trade waste in rural areas; and if he will make a statement. [265746]

Jane Kennedy: DEFRA funds the Business Resource Efficiency and Waste (BREW) Centre for local authorities to deliver a central support service to help them provide more tailored advice to their business communities on waste and resource efficiency issues. This includes rural authorities.

The centre has created a network of over 850 local authority officers to help share experience in this area, and has developed over 100 good practice case studies and other guidance for local authorities. Specific business resource efficiency projects are being taken forward with selected local authorities and the lessons learned from these are being shared widely by the centre. This includes guidance notes for local authorities who are considering implementing a trade waste recycling service, available on the following website at:

http://www.lga.gov.uk/lga/core/page.do?pageId=1213283#contents-9

WALES

Departmental Buildings

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what properties his Department has sold in each of the last five years. [267555]

Mr. Paul Murphy: The Wales Office has not sold any properties in the last five years.

Departmental Carbon Emissions

Greg Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales whether his Department has adopted the Carbon Trust's Carbon Management Programme. [266734]

Mr. Paul Murphy: My Department has not adopted the Carbon Trust's Carbon Management Programme.

As a small Department we have taken full advantage of the Carbon Trust's small and medium sized Business Toolkit. This resulted in a full Carbon Trust survey and follow-up action plan in 2006. All action points raised have been implemented together with the introduction of a robust recycling programme.

The Wales Office is currently establishing a sustainable development strategy to further assist in further reducing emissions.

Departmental Empty Property

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what estimate he has made of the change in the annual cost to his Department of maintaining the empty public buildings owned by his Department as a result of the April 2008 changes to empty property rate relief. [267139]

Mr. Paul Murphy: The Wales Office does not maintain or own any empty public buildings.

Departmental Energy

Greg Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what steps have been taken by *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agencies to improve the thermal efficiency of their buildings in the last 12 months. [266759]

Mr. Paul Murphy: The Wales Office undertook an energy efficiency test in 2008 and reached a C grading.

We continue to look for ways to improve the energy efficiency of the building, although we are limited in our ability due to the Grade 2 listing of the building.

Departmental Publications

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what estimate he has made of the *(a)* production and printing and *(b)* other costs to his Department of producing its most recent (i) departmental annual report and (ii) autumn performance report. [266684]

Mr. Paul Murphy: The Wales Office spent £14,170 on its last bilingual departmental annual report. We do not print an autumn performance report.

Departmental Recycling

Mr. Rob Wilson: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales how much and what proportion of its waste his Department recycled in each of the last five years. [266614]

Mr. Paul Murphy: The Wales Office began recording the volume of waste produced in April 2007 onwards. For the year 2007-08, 12,619 kg of waste was recycled, equating to 80 per cent. of the total waste produced. The figure for 2008-09 is not yet available.

Departmental Standards

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what estimate he has made of the cost to his Department of measuring compliance with its targets under its public service agreements in the last 12 months for which figures are available. [266703]

Mr. Paul Murphy: The Wales Office does not deliver services directly to the public and does not have a public service agreement.

LEADER OF THE HOUSE

Departmental Recycling

Mr. Rob Wilson: To ask the Leader of the House how much and what proportion of its waste her Office recycled in each of the last five years. [266598]

Chris Bryant: The Office of the Leader of the House of Commons joined the Cabinet Office in 2007. I refer the hon. Gentleman to the answer given by the Cabinet Office.

It would not be possible to provide information prior to 2007 without incurring a disproportionate cost.

NORTHERN IRELAND

Abortion

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland (1) who drafted the Guidance on the Termination of Pregnancy: The Law and Clinical Practice in Northern Ireland; which *(a)* individuals and *(b)* organisations were consulted prior to writing the Guidance; and if he will make a statement; [266995]

(2) when the Guidance on the Termination of Pregnancy: The Law and Clinical Practice in Northern Ireland will come into force; and if he will make a statement; [266996]

(3) how many abortions were performed on women in Northern Ireland on the grounds that *(a)* it was necessary to preserve the life of the woman and *(b)* there was a risk of real and serious adverse effect on her physical or mental health, which was either long-term or permanent in each of the last five years, broken down by health authority; [266999]

(4) if he will include information on *(a)* counselling and *(b)* possible alternatives to abortion in the Guidance on the Termination of Pregnancy: The Law and Clinical Practice in Northern Ireland; and if he will make a statement. [267000]

Paul Goggins: This is not a matter for which my Department has responsibility. The law relating to the termination of pregnancy is part of the criminal law and as such is a matter currently reserved to the UK Parliament. However, the provision of health and social care services, including information or guidance of the sort to which the hon. Gentleman refers, is a devolved matter and is the responsibility of the Minister for Health, Social Services and Public Safety.

Bloody Sunday Tribunal of Inquiry

Mr. Gregory Campbell: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what the legal costs of the Saville Inquiry were in each of the last 12 months for which figures are available. [267713]

Paul Goggins: The legal costs in relation to the Bloody Sunday Inquiry in each of the last 12 months for both the Inquiry and the Ministry of Defence (MOD) for which figures are available are shown in the following table. These costs cover payments to lawyers working for the Inquiry and to lawyers representing interested parties and witnesses before the Inquiry (including those funded by the MOD).

£

Month	*Bloody Sunday Inquiry*	*MOD legal costs*	*Total*
2008			
April	171,435.67	22,193.64	193,629.31
May	81,515.02	25,546.38	107,061.40
June	19,401.90	11,453.90	30,855.80
July	33,535.02	18,812.46	52,347.48
August	71,483.39	21,714.48	93,197.87
September	54,505.27	22,357.90	76,863.17
October	21,486.03	27,883.93	49,369.96
November	154,901.26	27,710.26	182,611.52
December	19,863.63	19,554.37	39,418.00
2009			
January	69,152.44	0.0	69,152.44
February	346,444.93	0.0	346,444.93
March[1]	—	—	—
Total	1,043,724.56	197,227.32	1,240,951.88

[1] Final figure not yet available.

Departmental Flowers

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how much was spent by his Department on flowers in the last 12 months. [266287]

Paul Goggins: The Northern Ireland Office (NIO) does not record expenditure under this heading. However, £28,412 was paid to florists and nurseries in 2007-08 (excluding agencies and executive NDPBs).

Flowers are generally purchased as decoration when the NIO hosts official events such as receptions, for example for military personnel returning and ceremonies such as Royal Garden Parties honouring community and civic leaders. Where possible, the Department will make use of these items at more than one event.

These figures also include flowers purchased for events which are held in Hillsborough Castle on behalf of other parties. Although the NIO does not charge these external customers directly for the cost of flowers, an administration charge is levied to cover sundry costs.

Departmental ICT

Mr. Paterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland pursuant to the answer of 17 December 2008, *Official Report*, column 773W, on departmental ICT, which ICT projects are over budget and by how much in each case. [257288]

Paul Goggins: There is one ICT project which is over budget.

The Causeway Programme's original estimated cost was £42.7 million but it is estimated to be £58 million by 2013 when the contract is closed.

Departmental Public Expenditure

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how much capital spending is planned to be brought forward by his Department to *(a)* 2008-09 and *(b)* 2009-10. [266299]

Paul Goggins: The Northern Ireland Office (NIO), excluding its agencies and executive NDPBs, has made no plans to bring forward capital spending to 2008-09 or 2009-10.

Departmental Publications

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what estimate he has made of the *(a)* production and printing and *(b)* other costs to his Department of producing its most recent (i) departmental annual report and (ii) autumn performance report. [266688]

Mr. Woodward: The cost of production of the Autumn Performance Report for 2008 and the annual Departmental Report for 2007-08 would only relate to staff costs in respect of the drafting and compilation of the reports as part of normal business.

The cost of the printing of:

(i) the Annual Departmental Report for 2007-08 was £12,870; and

(ii) the Autumn Performance Report for 2008 was £6,543.

Printing costs are not available for the 2008-09 Departmental Report as it is not yet published.

There were no other costs to my Department of producing these reports.

Forensic Science NI: Finance

Sammy Wilson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what budget was allocated to Forensic Science NI in each of the last five years. [264741]

Paul Goggins: Forensic Science NI is primarily funded to carry out its business from income it generates from its customers, with the remainder provided by the Northern Ireland Office (NIO) centrally.

£000

NIO funding	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*	*2008-09*
Customer income	7,369	8,182	8,429	9,090	9,373
NIO Resource DEL	1,217	1,446	1,437	1,927	1,535
Total	8,586	9,628	9,866	11,017	10,908
NIO Capital DEL	381	371	1,260	1,524	1,343

Note:
Customers include PSNI, State Pathologist's Department, Police Ombudsman, Private customers etc.

The agency in 2008-09 had £10,908,000 resource and £1,343,000 capital in monies to fund activities.

Police Service of Northern Ireland: Recruitment

Mr. Gregory Campbell: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many people from each religious background *(a)* applied and *(b)* were appointed to join the police in Northern Ireland in recruitment competitions in 2008. [267712]

Paul Goggins: That is an operational matter for the Chief Constable. I have asked him to reply directly to the hon. Member, and a copy of his letter will be placed in the Library of the House.

Prisons: Mobile Phones

Mr. Gregory Campbell: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland whether prisoners in Northern Ireland are permitted to have and use mobile telephones within prisons. [267715]

Paul Goggins: Prisoners in Northern Ireland are not permitted to have and use mobile telephones within prisons.

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

Brussels

Mr. Heathcoat-Amory: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many visits were made by Ministers to Brussels, other than on NATO business, in the financial year 2007-08. [264567]

Caroline Flint: During the financial year 2007-2008 our Ministers made a total of 149 visits to Brussels. These visits included both ministerial visits to our bi-lateral embassy in Brussels and the UK representation to the EU.

Commonwealth

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent discussions he has had with his Commonwealth counterparts on the future of the Commonwealth. [266091]

Gillian Merron: My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary and the Foreign and Commonwealth Office ministerial team engage regularly on Commonwealth issues including meeting Commonwealth counterparts. On 4 March 2009, I attended the latest Commonwealth Ministers Action Group Meeting. This year the modern Commonwealth is celebrating its 60th anniversary and has achieved a tremendous amount over the last 60 years. The UK is committed to ensuring the Commonwealth and every international organisation is forward looking and best able to deal with the challenges of the 21st century.

Democratic Republic of Congo: Armed Conflict

Mr. Oaten: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what military involvement the United Nations has had in co-ordination with Congolese and Rwandan troops during their joint operation against the Democratic Liberation Forces of Rwanda. [264592]

Gillian Merron *[holding answer 19 March 2009]:* During the operations against the Democratic Liberation Forces of Rwanda (FDLR) militia, UN peace keepers contributed logistical support to the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) army and assisted members of the FDLR in disarming and returning to Rwanda. The UN mission in the DRC (MONUC) made a team of military officers available to assist in planning the operations. Although the operations bore some successes, MONUC was less fully involved than we would have wished in planning and carrying them out. Our ambassador in Kinshasa called for co-ordination of the operations with MONUC, both publicly and in consultation with the DRC Government. We made clear our position that the operations should take proper account of humanitarian law and civilian protection.

Departmental Buildings

Dr. Pugh: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what buildings are owned or operated by his Department under a private finance initiative (PFI) arrangement; and which companies are involved with each such PFI arrangement. [267412]

Gillian Merron: The only Foreign and Commonwealth Office building which we occupy under a private finance initiative arrangement is the building of our embassy in Berlin. The building is owned and operated by Arteos, a company owned by Semperian PPP Investment Partners.

Departmental ICT

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what the initial estimated *(a)* cost and *(b)* delivery date for each ICT project initiated by his Department was for systems serving departmental processes in the UK that cost more than £1 million in each year since 2003-04; what the (i) outturn cost and (ii) completion date was of each project subsequently completed; which contractors were hired for each project; and how much has been paid to each contractor in respect of each project. [265510]

Gillian Merron: Until recently, the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) devolved responsibility for expenditure on ICT systems to individual directorates. As a consequence there is no central historical record of the information requested, and a comprehensive reply could be provided only at disproportionate cost. This does not, however, apply to larger projects costing in excess of £2 million. The following table sets out the information requested for such projects initiated since April 2003. Most FCO systems are designed to operate both in the UK and at Posts overseas; all those listed in the following table, with the exception of disaster recovery, serve FCO staff around the world.

Project	*Original completion date*	*Latest forecast or actual completion date*	*Original total cost (£ million)*	*Latest total cost (£ million)*	*Contractor*	*Contract value (£ million)*
Unclassified video conferencing	August 2009	August 2009	3.08	2.68	Multiple	n/a
Prism management information phase 1 (including later requirements changes)	April 2009	November 2009	3.57	3.76	CapGemini	2.96
Disaster Recovery (increased capacity to achieve full Resilience)	March 2009	July 2009	1.50	2.47	Cable and Wireless (GSI)	1.93
Bridge (formerly FEDIS) phase 1— emergency passports(including latest requirements)	December 2009	March 2010	4.44	6.00	Logica/FCO services	n/a
Prism simplification	January 2009	April 2009	6.99	6.20	CapGemini	3.92
Ocean (telecommunications procurement)	May 2010	November 2009	7.60	7.60	Various/OGC/internal	n/a
Secure video conferencing	March 2008	December 2008	2.49	2.13	Multiple/FCO services	n/a
Managed reporting service	January 2008	March 2009	2.50	2.31	HP/FCO services	n/a
Post infrastructure improvement	September 2008	September 2008	3.17	3.20	Various	n/a
FCONet 3 (development)	June 2007	March 2008	3.50	3.52	Fujitsu	[1]—
Global collaboration	March 2008	March 2008	3.60	3.60	Various/internal	n/a
FCO web platform (scope reduced on examination of full business case)	November 2008	December 2008	13.50	9.74	Logica	6.12
Future firecrest programme	February 2012	February 2012	401.00	401.00	Hewlett Packard	216.80
FCONet 2	October 2005	November 2005	3.80	3.80	Fujitsu	2.08
EDRM (eRecords/iRecords) (scope reduced due to financial constraints)	March 2010	August 2008	26.50	5.10	Internal/FCO services	n/a
Biometric passports programme (BRIT)	October 2006	October 2006	4.00	4.00	3M	6.50

[1] Not separately identifiable from existing record.

Departmental Public Expenditure

Dr. Cable: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what his latest estimate is of his Department's capital expenditure in *(a)* 2008-09, *(b)* 2009-10, *(c)* 2010-11 and *(d)* 2011-12; and if he will make a statement. [268119]

Gillian Merron: In 2008-09 capital expenditure is forecast to be £219 million net.

The net comprehensive spending round (CSR) capital allocation for 2009-10 is £216 million.

The net CSR capital allocation for 2010-11 is £205 million.

An estimate for expenditure in 2011-12 is not yet available.

Departmental Training

Mr. Hands: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the answer of 26 November 2008, *Official Report*, column 1793W, on training, what the cost was of his training in *(a)* the presentation of foreign policy and *(b)* his Department's IT systems. [265665]

Gillian Merron: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given on 2 March 2009, *Official Report*, columns 1240-44W.

Falkland Islands: Crimes of Violence

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what records he holds on the number of violent crimes that have taken place in the Falkland Islands in each of the last five years. [267110]

Gillian Merron: I understand from the Royal Falkland Islands Police that the number of violent crimes over the last five years in the Falkland Islands was:

Murder: none

Attempted murder: none

Manslaughter: none

Attempted rape: none

Robbery: none

Cases of assault occasioning actual bodily harm or common assault: 20 in total—three in 2004, six in 2005, four in 2006, four in 2007 and three in 2008

Rape: two in total—one in 2005 and one in 2007

Grievous bodily harm: five in total—three in 2005, one in 2006 and one in 2008.

G20

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what steps have been taken in the preparations for the G20 meeting in north London in April to *(a)* ensure the sustainable use of resources and *(b)* to minimise the carbon footprint of the meeting. [263815]

Gillian Merron: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) has employed an event production company, Feltech/MRG. The company has adopted an environmental policy that meets Government guidelines set out in the Green Claims code in their provision of the required conference and media facilities. The venue, ExCeL London, is one of the participants in the implementation programme for BS8901:2007, a British standard for sustainable events that helps minimise the environmental impact of events such as the G20 Summit.

Feltech/MRG will produce a report recording the measures taken to reduce the carbon footprint of the summit. We are also developing a carbon management approach with the Department of Energy and Climate Change and have commissioned a report on the carbon impact of the G20 Summit to be available within 60 days of the event.

International Criminal Court

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what discussions he has had with the US administration on *(a)* the International Criminal Court (ICC) citation of President al-Bashir of Sudan and *(b)* US participation in the ICC. [267427]

Gillian Merron: We have had extensive discussions with all levels of the US administration on the situation in Darfur, including the International Criminal Court (ICC) indictment of President Bashir for alleged war crimes and crimes against humanity in the region.

Most recent contacts have focused on the need for the Government of Sudan to reconsider their decision to expel 13 international humanitarian non-governmental organisations working in Darfur. My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary discussed these issues with US Secretary of State Clinton during his visit to Washington on 18 March 2009. We continue to underline in all contacts the need for Sudan to cooperate with the ICC, as well as to take concrete action for peace in Darfur.

My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary has not had any discussions with the US about their membership of the ICC. The Government work with EU partners towards achieving universality of the Rome Statute of the ICC, and we look forward to discussing this issue with the new US administration.

Iran: Diplomatic Service

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the answer of 23 March 2009, *Official Report*, column 29W, on Iran, in what ways the Iranian authorities have obstructed the activities of staff at the British Embassy in Tehran; what activities have been obstructed; and if he will make a statement. [267842]

David Miliband: The Iranian authorities have obstructed the activities of our embassy in Tehran in numerous ways, including: by placing restrictions on vehicle access to the embassy compounds for embassy staff and visitors, harassing embassy staff, guests, and contractors carrying out work on our compounds (including security work recommended by the Iranian authorities), and failing to provide airside access for the collection of diplomatic bags.

Additionally the British Council was forced to suspend its operation in Iran earlier this year, because of unacceptable pressure put on its staff by the Iranian Government.

We have raised these issues with the Iranian authorities on numerous occasions and reminded them of their obligations under the Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations.

Iran: Nuclear Power

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs with reference to the Statement during the Prime Minister's address to the US Congress that Iran should cease its threats and suspend its nuclear programme, what steps the Government are taking to secure this objective. [267882]

Bill Rammell: The Government remain committed to the E3+3 dual-track strategy—of pressure and engagement—to address the Iran nuclear issue. On the engagement aide, the US has been clear about its desire for a relationship based on "mutual respect" as President Obama made clear in a message to the Iranian people on 19 March 2009. The E3+3's generous offer of June 2008 remains on the table, which offers Iran a wide range of political and economic benefits, together with all it would need to develop and operate a civilian nuclear programme. On the pressure side, the UN Security Council has agreed five resolutions on the issue, three of which put in place sanctions against Iran. The EU has gone beyond these to put in place further measures. We have been clear that if Iran chooses not to accept the US and E3+3 offers, further, tough measures will follow.

Members: Correspondence

Steve Webb: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs when he plans to reply to the letter from the hon. Member for Northavon of 15 December 2008 sent on behalf of Mr. R Jenkins of Tytherington, South Gloucestershire. [267260]

Gillian Merron: The hon. Member for Northavon's letter was replied to on 20 March 2009.

Steve Webb: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs when he plans to reply to the letter from the hon. Member for Northavon of 19 December 2008 sent on behalf of M Taylor of Chipping Sodbury. [267261]

Gillian Merron: The hon. Member for Northavon's letter was replied to on 20 March 2009.

Middle East: Armed Conflict

Dr. Ladyman: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what representations HM Ambassador in Tehran has made to the Iranian Government on its role in supporting Hamas during the recent Gaza conflict. [265654]

Bill Rammell: Our ambassador in Tehran raised the issue of Iranian support for Hamas at a meeting at the Iranian Ministry of Foreign Affairs on 12 January 2009. Our embassy also translated my right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary's House of Commons statement on Gaza into Farsi, circulated it to journalists and placed it on the embassy's Farsi language website.

The UK would like to see Iran making a positive contribution to creating a secure, stable and prosperous Middle East. But its current behaviour is a cause for serious concern for us and others. Iran needs to work with the international community and its regional neighbours to restore confidence in its intentions.

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether he *(a)* has taken and *(b)* plans to take steps at the United Nations with regard to the ambush and murder of two police officers in Israel on 15 March; and if he will make a statement. [266989]

Bill Rammell: The UK condemns the murder of the two police officers. This incident has reinforced the urgent need for lasting peace in the Middle East. We remain committed to a two-state solution and to achieving a comprehensive peace and shall continue to work closely with the parties, with the Quartet of the UN, EU, US, and Russia, and with regional partners to make progress in 2009.

Middle East: Mass Media

Mr. Gray: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment he has made of the effect of media in Arab countries on extremist Islamic movements in the UK. [266636]

Bill Rammell: While no formal study has been undertaken into the possible effects of reporting in the Arabic media on extremist Islamic groups in the UK, it is possible that some stories in the Arabic media may indeed serve to reinforce such groups' beliefs. However, we have no evidence to suggest that patterns of media consumption of extremist groups are particularly distinctive, and we believe that they are just as likely to focus on stories in British or other media which reinforce their beliefs.

Media in Arab countries are wide-ranging and many different viewpoints are expressed. The consumption of Arabic media therefore will not necessarily reinforce extremist views. We recognise that the Arabic media represent one of the best ways to communicate to the Arabic-speaking world, both in the Middle East and elsewhere, and for that reason we have Arabic language spokespersons based in London and the Gulf where they play an important role in articulating our policies to this crucial audience.

Additionally, as part of our Prevent communications strategy, we constantly monitor the Arabic media and respond to articles that give an inaccurate picture of Government policy or life in the UK for British Muslims.

New Delhi

Mr. Heathcoat-Amory: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many visits were made by Ministers to New Delhi in the financial year 2007-08. [264570]

Bill Rammell: Government Ministers made 12 official visits to New Delhi in the financial year 2007-2008.

Regional Ministers: Travel

Andrew Mackinlay: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether the Permanent Secretary of his Department has authorised expenditure on travel costs for the Parliamentary assistants to *(a)* the Minister for Yorkshire and the Humber and *(b)* the Minister for the East Midlands in accordance with the circumstances envisaged in the Cabinet Secretary's letter to Permanent Secretaries of 2 December 2008. [267158]

Gillian Merron: No.

Sudan: Travel Information

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what his Department's advice on travel to Sudan is; and what recent discussions he has had with the Secretary of State for the Home Department on travel to the Sudan. [266174]

Gillian Merron *[holding answer 26 March 2009]:* Our travel advice is constantly being updated to reflect the current situation in Sudan.

The latest travel advice for Sudan which was last updated on 16 March 2009 is available online at:

http://www.fco.gov.uk/en/travelling-and-living-overseas/travel-advice-by-country/sub-saharan-africa/sudanl

There have been no recent discussions with my right hon. Friend the Home Secretary on travel to Sudan.

Terrorism: Crime Prevention

Mr. Lidington: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how much was spent on delivery of the CONTEST programme overseas in each financial year since 2006-07; how much has been allocated for such expenditure in *(a)* 2008-09, *(b)* 2009-10 and *(c)* 2010-11; which (i) projects and (ii) organisations received money under the programme in each year since 2006-07; how much each received; and if he will make a statement. [267523]

Bill Rammell: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office's (FCO) contribution to CONTEST overseas in 2006-07 and 2007-08 was £7.2 million and £8.9 million respectively. The FCO has allocated a further £127 million over the current comprehensive spending review, which includes £35 million in 2008-2009, £39 million in 2009-2010 and £53 million in 2010-11.

Projects that aim to improve capabilities to counter terrorism in priority countries are allocated funding. In order to protect the safety and security of organisations delivering sensitive projects overseas we do not routinely name projects or organisations that have received funding.

Mr. Lidington: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what procedures he has put in place to ensure *(a)* financial audit and *(b)* value for money in expenditure made as part of the CONTEST programme overseas. [267524]

Bill Rammell: All projects are managed by our officials in our embassies overseas. Our embassies are routinely audited by our internal audit team.

All proposals for project funding undergo a rigorous assessment process to ensure that each project provides good value for money. Projects are also evaluated on completion, during which further consideration is given to whether the project offered good value for money. The impact of projects is carefully monitored through a process agreed with my right hon. Friend the Prime Minister's Delivery Unit and the National Audit Office.

United Nations: Reform

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent representations the Government has made to the Secretary-General of the UN on reform of the UN. [246221]

Bill Rammell: We are in constant contact with the Secretariat, including the UN Secretary-General, over UN reform. In December 2008 we achieved good results in the UN's 5th committee where we agreed a number of reforms foreshadowed in the 2005 World Summit. These included reform of the UN's human resources management (streamlining the UN's contractual system, and improving conditions of field staff in the hardest missions to help tackle staffing problems), reform of the Department of Political Affairs to improve the UN's capacity in the field of preventive diplomacy and mediation, modernising the UN's outdated IT system, and reforming the system of internal appeals for UN staff to make it more accountable and efficient.

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Afghanistan: Overseas Aid

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what assessment he has made of the effectiveness of his Department's humanitarian aid to Afghanistan; and if he will make a statement. [267384]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: The Department for International Development (DFID) has responded swiftly to the humanitarian situation through capable operational agencies, particularly the World Food Programme (WFP). Since January 2008, we have committed £22.5 million to alleviate food shortages. This includes:

(a) £17 million to help feed over 4.5 million people; and

(b) £5.5 million to provide agricultural input including seeds, fertilisers, technical assistance to boost food production, and credit.

The food security situation remains fragile. However, the WFP has delivered over 96 per cent. of the 36,000MT of food designated for target beneficiaries, and has recently assessed that there is sufficient food in place to stabilise supply until the harvest period.

Central African Republic: Overseas Aid

Mr. Newmark: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what the reasons are for the change in his Department's *(a)* bilateral expenditure on and *(b)* imputed multilateral shares for the Central African Republic between 2006-07 and 2007-08. [266332]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: Between 2006-07 and 2007-08, the Department for International Development (DFID) bilateral spend reduced because this period saw an increased donor interest in the Central African Republic (CAR), and a corresponding reduction in UK burdenshare.

DFID provides core contributions to the general budgets of multilateral organisations and cannot then track the funds directly to individual countries. DFID uses the figures reported by multilateral institutions to the OECD's Development Assistance Committee (DAC) to provide an estimate of what proportion of DFID's core contributions are spent in each country. The multilateral institutions themselves determine which countries should receive an allocation from their funds in any given year, and the size of any allocation. The UK's imputed share of multilateral official development assistance (ODA) accordingly reflects increases or decreases in the allocation by multilateral institutions to each country in the years in question.

Mr. Newmark: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development when he next expects an allocation from his Department's regional programme for aid to be made to the country programme for the Central African Republic. [266333]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The allocation for 2009-10 has been made. In addition to the Department for International Development's (DFID) imputed multilateral share, an envelope of up to £2 million will be available for the Central African Republic during the coming financial year, from the Department's wider regional humanitarian programme.

Departmental ICT

Mr. Clifton-Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development if he will place in the Library a copy of the joint DFID/WB scoping study prepared for his Department by Roger Wilson in August 2007. [263980]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The report 'Proposal for a UK/DFID-World Bank Governance Partnership Facility' prepared by Roger Wilson and Sarwar Lateef in August 2007 will be placed in the Library of the House.

Departmental Manpower

Mr. Clifton-Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development pursuant to the answer of 9 March 2009, *Official Report*, column 17W, on departmental personnel, if he will place in the Library a copy of *(a)* the terms of reference for his Department's recruitment of an interim human resources manager via Penna Interim, *(b)* the contract between his Department and Penna Interim, *(c)* the contract of employment between the appointee and Penna Interim and *(d)* the list of the appointee's primary responsibilities and the duties for the human resources manager; and if he will make a statement. [263728]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: *(a)* A copy of the terms of reference for the recruitment of the Interim HR Director, will be placed in the Library.

(b) The contract between DFID and Penna Interim is regarded as commercial in confidence. As such it is not appropriate to place a copy in the Library.

(c) The contract that existed between the appointee and Penna Interim is a matter for the two parties involved.

(d) The duties of the DFID HR Director will also be placed in the Library.

Mr. Clifton-Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what the *(a)* dates of employment, *(b)* total days worked, *(c)* salary, *(d)* daily rate and *(e)* other costs of employment for Roger Wilson in respect of his employment by the Department to prepare the joint DFID/WB scoping study were. [263978]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: Roger Wilson was not an employee of the Department for International Development (DFID) when he undertook work on the project titled "Joint DFID/WB Scoping Study". The total contract award value was £21,965. DFID cannot comment on salary and other employment costs because Mr. Wilson was not an employee of the Department.

Mr. Clifton-Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development on what dates Roger Wilson *(a)* joined and *(b)* left the service of his Department as a direct employee; and what payments the Department has made to him for (i) consultancy and (ii) other work since he ceased to be a direct employee. [263979]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: Roger Wilson joined the Department for International Development (at that time known as the Ministry of Overseas Development) on 1 June 1976 and left the service of the Department as a direct employee on 6 August 2006. Since that date he has been paid a total of £55,700 in consultancy fees.

Departmental Official Engagements

Mr. Rob Wilson: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what his official engagements on 23 February 2009 were; and by what *(a)* route and *(b)* method he travelled between each engagement. [262424]

Mr. Michael Foster: On 23 February 2009 the Secretary of State for International Development attended the Cabinet Away-Day in Southampton in the morning and did a regional visit on behalf of the Department for International Development (DFID) in the afternoon. He took the train from London to Southampton and returned to London by train from Reading. He travelled between engagements by Government car.

Departmental Public Appointments

Julia Goldsworthy: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development which former *(a)* Members of the House of Lords and *(b)* hon. Members who left Parliament since 1997 have been appointed to public bodies for which his Department is responsible; and who made each such appointment. [267856]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: No former members of the House of Lords or hon. Members who left Parliament since 1997 have been appointed to public bodies for which my Department is responsible.

Departmental Training

Mr. Hands: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development pursuant to the answer of 2 February 2009, *Official Report*, column 861W, on departmental training, which Ministers attended the public communications course; and how much the course cost to provide. [265679]

Mr. Michael Foster: Identifying Ministers who undertake training may discourage participation in future training sessions, acting as a disincentive for Ministers to undertake formal professional development. The total cost of the public communications course was £4,050.

Developing Countries: Debts

Andrew Stunell: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what the Government's policy is on the establishment of a new sovereign debt work-out mechanism to deal with the debts of poor countries. [265602]

Ian Pearson: I have been asked to reply.

The UK has been at the forefront of international delivery of debt relief. The heavily indebted poor countries initiative and the multilateral debt relief initiative provide comprehensive debt relief for the poorest, most heavily indebted countries. 34 countries are currently receiving debt relief; of which 24 have received irrevocable debt cancellation, including 100 per cent. cancellation of debts to the UK and international financial institutions.

In addition, any country that experiences debt problems can also approach the Paris Club. This informal group of 19 sovereign creditors, including the UK, finds co-ordinated and sustainable solutions to sovereign debt problems.

In relation to proposals for a wider sovereign debt work-out mechanism, the Government supported earlier work by the International Monetary Fund to investigate the establishment of a sovereign debt resolution mechanism, although international consensus was not reached on the establishment of such a mechanism.

Overseas Aid: Malaria

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development from which budget the allocation of £2 million for the prevention of the spread of malaria announced on 12 March 2009 will be drawn; whether the funding is additional to that allocated for the provision of 20 million bed nets; to which programmes that funding will be allocated; and how that funding will be distributed. [267560]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The funding to meet this commitment will come from the budget available for development programmes in Africa at the Department for International Development (DFID). The funding is additional to that allocated for the additional 20 million bed nets.

This additional funding will be spent in Kenya and Tanzania and be used to support malaria prevention activities in those two countries. Officials are currently working on the detail of what the resources will support and how the funding will be distributed.

Overseas Aid: Water

Mr. Roger Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what recent assessment he has made of progress towards reaching Millennium Development Goal 7, target 3, for drinking water and sanitation; and if he will make a statement. [266390]

Mr. Michael Foster: The latest assessment on the progress of Millennium Development Goal 7, target 3 was made by the World Health Organisation (WHO) and United Nations Children Fund (UNICEF) Joint Monitoring Programme in July 2008. Their report is available on-line at:

http://www.wssinfo.org/en/welcome.html

Sierra Leone: Education

Mrs. Curtis-Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how much funding his Department is providing to support education in Sierra Leone in 2008-09; and how much of this has been allocated for the construction of new school buildings. [267782]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: During 2008-09 the Department for International Development (DFID) provided £750,000 directly to education in Sierra Leone in support of a national Teacher Verification and School Census programme. DFID also contributed £10 million in Poverty Reduction Budget Support to the Government of Sierra Leone, 15 per cent. of which is attributed to the education sector.

DFID's support to the construction of new school buildings has been through our contribution to the Fast Track Initiative Catalytic Fund for Sierra Leone. Between 2008 and 2010, $5.9 million was allocated by this fund for school rehabilitation and construction. In addition, the UK's core contributions to the World Bank, UN and Africa Development Bank have contributed to the construction of 304 schools across the country in that time.

CHILDREN, SCHOOLS AND FAMILIES

Cabinet Sub-committee on Families, Children and Young People

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families for what reasons it is his policy not to disclose information relating to proceedings of the Cabinet Sub-committee on Families, Children and Young People; and when the Sub-committee last met. [266323]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: Information relating to the proceedings of Cabinet Committees, including when, how often and for how long they meet, is generally not disclosed; as to do so could harm the frankness and candour of internal discussion.

Departmental Ministerial Policy Advisers

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how much has been claimed in reimbursable expenses by special advisers in his Department in 2008-09 to date. [260340]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: Costs incurred on reimbursable expenses in 2008-09, will be available only when the Department's resource accounts are fully audited and laid before Parliament. This is expected to be before the 2009 summer recess.

Further Education: Finance

Peter Luff: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what discussions he has had with the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills on using unspent capital allocations in that Department's budget for capital projects in the further education sector; and if he will make a statement. [261761]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families is in ongoing contact with the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills about the use of the FE capital modernisation fund, which is administered by the Learning and Skills Council to support the improvement of college facilities. As it has always done, the Department will co-operate with the Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills wherever possible to support the interests of learners in this country. We are discussing, with the LSC, ways of supporting additional capital building programmes in the FE sector. However, in the current spending review period, the Department's capital resources for strategic, targeted and devolved programmes for schools are fully committed.

The Government's record on capital investment in the further education sector has been exemplary. In 1997 there was no capital budget for FE colleges; between 1997/98 and 2006/07, more than £2 billion was invested in modernising FE facilities and we will spend another £2.3 billion on the FE estate in the current spending review period.

As the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills made clear in his statement on 4 March, there are 253 projects that have already received agreement in detail and are under way and we anticipate spending the full £2.3 billion in this spending review period.

The Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills has asked the LSC to consult with the Association of Colleges and the FE sector on ways of prioritising schemes in the future programme. The Department will continue to work with DIUS and the LSC to bring the benefits of the capital modernisation programme to as many young people as possible.

Pupils: Offensive Weapons

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many students have been arrested for taking weapons into schools in *(a)* England, *(b)* the North East, *(c)* Tees Valley district and *(d)* Middlesbrough South and East Cleveland constituency in each of the last 12 years. [265341]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The information requested on arrests is not collected centrally. The data on arrests held by the Home Office cover arrests for recorded crime (notifiable offences) broken down at main offence group level, covering categories such as violence against the person and robbery; they would not show the number of people arrested specifically for taking weapons into schools. It is not possible to obtain the individual circumstances of persons arrested (such as student status) from the data on arrests held by the Home Office.

Pupils: Truancy

Joan Ryan: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many parents were *(a)* fined and *(b)* imprisoned in (i) England, (ii) Enfield local authority area and (iii) Enfield North constituency for their children's non-attendance at school in each of the last five years. [263913]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The Ministry of Justice collects data for England and Wales on prosecutions brought against parents under the Education Act 1996 for the offence under s444(1) of failing to secure their child's regular attendance at school; and for prosecutions under s444(1A), the aggravated offence of knowing that their child is failing to attend school regularly. It is possible, because of the way courts record data that some data are collected under the more general heading of various offences under the Education Act 1996.

The information on the number of parents sentenced and given fines or immediate custodial sentences is detailed in the following table. However, the Ministry of Justice does not collect information on prosecutions on local authority or constituency basis so it is not possible to provide a breakdown for Enfield local authority or Enfield North.

Adults sentenced for child truanting offences[1], 2003-07

		Fined	*Immediate custody*
2003	Parent failing to secure their child's regular attendance at school	1,802	4
	Parent knowing that their child is failing to attend school regularly without reasonable justification to cause him or her to attend school	151	3
2004	Parent failing to secure their child's regular attendance at school	1,605	8
	Parent knowing that their child is failing to attend school regularly without reasonable justification to cause him or her to attend school	476	14
2005	Parent failing to secure their child's regular attendance at school	1,743	5
	Parent knowing that their child is failing to attend school regularly without reasonable justification to cause him or her to attend school	466	15
2006	Parent failing to secure their child's regular attendance at school	2,324	2
	Parent knowing that their child is failing to attend school regularly without reasonable justification to cause him or her to attend	628	20
2007	Parent failing to secure their child's regular attendance at school	3,112	6
	Parent knowing that their child is failing to attend school regularly without reasonable justification to cause him or her to attend school	676	11

[1] These data are extracted on the principal offence basis These figures have been drawn from administrative data systems. Although care is taken when processing and analysing the returns the detail collected is subject to the inaccuracies inherent in any large scale recording system.

Source:

QMS Analytical Services, Ministry of Justice

The Department also collects and publishes data on penalty notices (fines) issued by local authorities in England to parents for not ensuring their child's regular attendance at school.

The figures for the last four school academic years since our data collection began are detailed in the following table. Data are only collected on a local authority basis and not for constituencies.

School academic year—penalty notices for non attendance

	England	*Enfield*
1 September 2004 to 31 July 2005	3,483	4
1 August 2005 to 1 September 2006	12,150	24
2 September 2006 to 31 August 2007	14,625	37
1 September 2007 to 31 August 2008	18,291	149

Source:
Department for Children, Schools and Families data March 2009

Religion: Curriculum

Mr. Oaten: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what estimate he has made of the number of local authorities which permit the teaching of non-belief in schools as part of the religious education curriculum. [267777]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The Department does not collect systematic information on the number of local authorities which include the teaching of non-religious beliefs in schools as part of their religious education curriculum.

Special Educational Needs

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many and what percentage of pupils with statemented special educational needs resident in each local authority area attended special schools in *(a)* 2003 and *(b)* the last 12 months for which figures are available, broken down by type of special educational need. [262903]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: Information about type of special educational need was first collected in 2004 and is therefore not available for 2003. A table containing the information requested for the years 2004 and 2008 has been placed in the House Libraries.

Bill Wiggin: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) what powers a local authority has to place children with special needs into a special school that has attained trust status; [266634]

(2) what mechanism he plans to enable local authorities to place special needs children in special schools which have trust status. [267037]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: Under section 324 (5) (b) of the Education Act 1996, all maintained schools, including special schools with trust status, are under a duty to admit children whose special educational needs (SEN) statements name the school as the one where the child is to be educated. Local authorities must consult the governing body of the school, and if the school is in the area of another authority, that authority, before naming the school. Children can only be admitted to a maintained special school if they have a statement which names that school, except in prescribed circumstances set out in section 316A of the Education Act 1996. These include admission for the purposes of an assessment, with the agreement of the local education authority, the head teacher, the parent and those from whom the local authority seeks advice for an assessment; where the child remains admitted to the special school following an assessment; or, with the agreement of the local education authority, the head teacher and the parent, following a change in circumstances.

Mr. Graham Stuart: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many disabled children have been statemented in each of the last five years; and if he will make a statement. [267519]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry *[holding answer 27 March 2009]*: Information on the number of disabled children who have been statemented in each of the last five years is not available.

The available information on special educational needs, including information on the type of special educational needs, is published in Table 9 of Statistical First Release 15/2008: Special Educational Needs in England: January 2008 which can be found at:

http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000794/index.shtml

Information for the previous year can be found at:

http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000732/index.shtml

Information for 2006 can be found at:

http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000661/index.shtml

Information for 2005 can be found at:

http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000584/index.shtml

and information for 2004 can be found at:

http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000537/index.shtml

Video Games: Sales

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what steps *(a)* his Department and *(b)* trading standards have taken to prevent sales of video games to those under age. [267890]

Beverley Hughes: The Government accepted all the Byron Review recommendations, including working with Trading Standards Officers on assessing underage sales of video games. Investigating the issue was accepted as a priority by the Executive Board of the new UK Council for Child Internet Safety (UKCCIS) and the Council has taken steps to implement this work with local partners.

This work forms part of the broader efforts to improve parents' and young people's understanding of video games and the associated risks, including a review of the classification system by the Department for Culture Media and Sport and a recently-established UKCCIS working group which will deliver the recommendations around online game safety recommendations made by the Byron Review.

World War II: Education

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families whether the Holocaust is included in the curriculum at primary school level; and if he will make a statement. [266998]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The National Curriculum requires pupils aged between 11 and 14 to study the Holocaust and it remains a compulsory element of the history secondary curriculum. The Holocaust is not a requirement of the existing programmes of study for history for children in primary schools, but is sometimes addressed in the wider school curriculum. For example The Diary of Anne Frank may be included in the range of non-fiction texts studied in English.

INNOVATION, UNIVERSITIES AND SKILLS

Adult Advice and Careers Service: Finance

Mr. Gibb: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what the annual budgets for the proposed *(a)* Adult Advice and Careers Service, *(b)* National Employer Service and *(c)* National Apprenticeship Service will be. [256229]

Mr. Simon: The Adult Advancement and Careers Service, National Employer Service and National Apprenticeship Service will be integral parts of the Skills Funding Agency (SFA) and will consequently be funded through the overall SFA budget. Details of the Learning and Skills Council (LSC) annual budget are set out in the LSC grant letter 2009-10, located at

www.lsc.gov.uk

Apprentices

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how many and what percentage of apprentices completed their apprenticeships in the latest period for which figures are available. [265346]

Mr. Simon: The number of people completing an apprenticeship in England in 2007/08 was 112,600, the latest year for which fully audited figures are available. This is an increase from 39,000 in 2001/02.

Completion rates are also at a record high, with 64 per cent. successfully completing an apprenticeship in England in 2007/08. This is an increase from 37 per cent. in 2004/05.

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how much his Department spent on *(a)* producing advertising copy and *(b)* buying advertising space under the Make Things Happen apprenticeships advertising campaign. [266467]

Mr. Simon: The Learning and Skills Council has been responsible for promoting apprenticeships since it came into existence in April 2001. The Council's acting chief executive, Geoffrey Russell, will write to the hon. Member with the information requested and a copy will be placed in the Libraries.

Departmental Buildings

Dr. Pugh: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what buildings are owned or operated by his Department under a private finance initiative (PFI) arrangement; and which companies are involved with each such PFI arrangement. [267409]

Mr. Simon: The Department has no buildings subject to a PFI arrangement.

Departmental Lost Property

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills whether officials in his Department who have lost laptops that were the property of his Department in the last 12 months have been charged the full value of replacement. [266235]

Mr. Simon: Officials who have lost laptops that were the property of the Department in the last 12 months have not been charged the full value of replacement.

Departmental Public Appointments

Julia Goldsworthy: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills which former *(a)* Members of the House of Lords and *(b)* hon. Members who left Parliament since 1997 have been appointed to public bodies for which his Department is responsible; and who made each such appointment. [267855]

Mr. Simon: This information is not held centrally. Information on board membership and remuneration is published in individual bodies' annual reports and accounts.

Education Maintenance Allowance

David Howarth: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what assessment he has made of the merits of introducing *(a)* late payment penalties and *(b)* compensation to recipients for late payments of education maintenance allowances by the Learning and Skills Council. [265536]

Mr. Simon: The issue of late payment penalties is a matter for the Learning and Skills Council (LSC) who manage the contract for the delivery of the education maintenance allowance. Geoff Russell, the LSC's acting chief executive, will write to the hon. Member for Cambridge with the information requested and a copy of his reply will be placed in the House Libraries.

There are no plans to pay compensation to learners whose payments may have been delayed. If learners have suffered hardship because of late EMA payments we would expect colleges to use the discretionary learner support funds to support them as these funds are designed to support learners in financial difficulties who may be in danger of dropping out of learning. All eligible learners who applied before the end of October 2008 will receive their EMA payments backdated to the start of their course.

Further Education

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what plans he has for the future role of post-16 specialist colleges in provision of education and training; and what mechanisms are in place for discussions between the Skills Funding Agency and local authorities acting as local commissioners. [266066]

Mr. Simon: Specialist colleges are, and will continue to be, an important part of the FE delivery landscape. The funding received by these colleges, which is currently provided by the Learning and Skills Council, will, from 2010 onwards, be provided through the Skills Funding Agency or local authorities.

Under the new arrangements providers will have a single conversation with a dedicated Skills Funding Agency Account Manager about funding their adult education and training provision.

For 16 to 19 education and training provision, local authorities will lead this conversation. Strategic priorities will be set by Regional Planning Groups whose membership will include: local authorities, the Regional Development Agency, Skills Funding Agency, Young People's Learning Agency and Government Office. This collaboration will inform, challenge, and question the alignment of 16 to 19 commissioning with skills and economic priorities.

Further Education: Finance

Mr. Willetts: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills when he expects to receive the report by Andrew Foster on capital spending in further education. [264926]

Mr. Simon: We fully recognise the need to move forward quickly with the further education capital programme, and regret the need to delay decisions further. Sir Andrew Foster is currently working on his report, but we expect it to be published shortly.

Mr. Willetts: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what proportion of the cost of further education college rebuilding projects in England has been funded by *(a)* the Learning and Skills Council and *(b)* colleges themselves in each year since 1998. [265050]

Mr. Simon: Capital funding for further education colleges is administrated by the Learning and Skills Council (LSC). As the information requested pertains to decisions and records held by the Council, Geoff Russell, the acting LSC chief executive will write to my hon. Member with the further information requested. A copy of his letter will be placed in the House Libraries.

Further Education: VAT

Mr. Willetts: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how much *(a)* further education colleges and *(b)* universities paid in value added tax (VAT) in 2007-08; and what estimate he has made of the savings each will accrue as a result of the reduction in the rate of VAT. [243986]

Mr. Lammy: We do not collect data about the amount universities or further education colleges pay in value added tax. This is a matter for individual institutions. However, we have asked some of our key delivery partners to estimate the impact. The main benefit of the VAT reduction for universities and further education colleges will be to reduce the level of irrecoverable VAT they incur on the services they purchase. Using an estimate of the amount universities and further education colleges spend on services, our broad estimate is that this will save around £185 million over the 13 months of the VAT reduction. This is an estimate, which is not based on forecast VAT expenditure, so the amount of actual savings could vary significantly.

Higher Education: Research

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what recent steps he has taken to encourage universities to increase the volume of scientific research they undertake. [267243]

Mr. Lammy: The Government seek to encourage excellent research, rather than volume for its own sake. Nevertheless, the volume of research staff submitted to the recent Research Assessment Exercise 2008 did increase by 12 per cent. relative to the previous exercise in 2001. 87 per cent. of this research was independently assessed to be internationally recognised, internationally excellent or world class. We therefore welcome this increase in excellent research.

Patents: Complaints

Mr. Gordon Prentice: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how many complaints *(a)* the Patent Office and *(b)* his Department have received on the (i) registration and (ii) administration of patents since 1997; and if he will make a statement. [266814]

Mr. Lammy: The Intellectual Property Office (IPO), the operating name of The Patent Office, has records of complaints received since the year 2000. Records prior to that have not been retained. These records do not distinguish between registration and administration. Information on recent complaints received since 2006 is available on the IPO website at:

http://www.ipo.gov.uk/about/feedback/feedback-previous.htm

The numbers of complaints received in each financial year since 2000 are as follows:

	Number of complaints	*Including Box 49*
2000-01	46	—
2001-02	19	—
2002-03	28	—
2003-04	53	16
2004-05	35	8
2005-06	23	10
2006-07	28	6
2007-08	25	11
2008-09	[1]27	15

[1] To date.

Those complaints referred to as "Box 49" were made direct to the chief executive through the IPO's formal complaints procedure.

These figures include complaints received by the IPO's parent Department, currently the Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills, and before that the Department for Trade and Industry, and forwarded to the IPO for action. It is unlikely that any complaints made to the parent Department about patent registration or administration would not have been referred to the IPO.

Training: Mass Media

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what funding his Department has allocated for the provision of *(a)* staff training and *(b)* apprenticeship places in local news organisations in the last 12 months. [256400]

Mr. Simon: The Department has not allocated funding for training to staff or apprentices in local news organisations.

Vocational Training: Hertfordshire

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how many businesses in *(a)* Hemel Hempstead and *(b)* Hertfordshire have signed the skills pledge. [263861]

Mr. Simon: The Skills Pledge is a voluntary, public commitment by employers to support their employees to develop their basic skills, including literacy and numeracy, and work towards relevant, valuable qualifications to at least Level 2 (equivalent to five good GCSEs).

Since the launch of the Skills Pledge in June 2007 we have made excellent progress. The latest available figures up until December 2008 show that nine organisations in your Hemel Hempstead constituency and 97 organisations in Hertfordshire have made the Skills Pledge. Please note that these figures include both public and private organisations.

DEFENCE

Procurement Programmes

13. **Mr. Hands:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what recent assessment he has made of progress on major defence procurement programmes relating to future expeditionary capability. [267187]

21. **Jeremy Wright:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what recent assessment he has made of progress on major defence procurement programmes relating to future expeditionary capability. [267196]

Mr. Quentin Davies: The Department is making significant progress on its procurement programmes for future expeditionary capability. Examples include the entry into service of two new C17 aircraft and the recent acceptance "off contract" of the first Type 45 destroyer.

Lutyens War Memorial: Bury

15. **Mr. Chaytor:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what plans he has for the future of the Lutyens War Memorial in Bury; and if he will make a statement. [267189]

Mr. Kevan Jones: The Ministry of Defence officially commemorates the final resting place of all those who die in Service and the UK Government contribute close to £40 million each year towards the work of the Commonwealth War Graves Commission to mark and maintain the graves, and the official memorials for those who have no known grave, of some 1.7 million Commonwealth service personnel who died during the two world wars.

However, the Department does not have the responsibility for war memorials. This responsibility rests with the owner of the memorial, which, in the case of the Lutyens War Memorial in Bury, is the trustees of the Royal Regiment of Fusiliers Museum, an independent charity.

Helmand Province

16. **Mr. Ellwood:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many rounds of ammunition were fired in the last six months by UK troops in Helmand province. [267190]

Mr. Hutton: I am unable to provide the data for the last six months as information on ammunition expenditure is only collated at the end of each roulement. Data for the current roulement, HERRICK 9, will only be compiled once it comes to an end in April.

Counter-Narcotic Operations: Afghanistan

17. **James Brokenshire:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what recent assistance UK forces have provided to the government of Afghanistan's counter-narcotic operations; and if he will make a statement. [267191]

Mr. Hutton: UK troops, as part of the International Security Assistance Force, support Afghan security forces to target narcotic traffickers and facilities that are supporting the insurgency. UK forces have also provided support to both the Poppy Eradication Force and the Governor-Led Eradication plan within Helmand province.

Persian Gulf

18. **Angela Watkinson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what recent assessment he has made of the capacity of the Royal Navy presence in the Persian Gulf to counter seaborne threats. [267192]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave earlier today to the hon. Member for Preseli Pembrokeshire (Mr. Crabb).

Military Vehicles

19. **Miss McIntosh:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what recent assessment he has made of the suitability of the military vehicles used by British soldiers on patrol in Afghanistan. [267194]

Mr. Hutton: The military vehicles used in the Afghan theatre, and elsewhere, are procured to meet requirements defined by the user. As such we will not hesitate to meet requests put to us by our operational commanders for any changes or upgrades to the equipment available to them.

While it is not possible to make every vehicle invulnerable to every possible attack, much has already been achieved in enhancing the protected mobility options available to commanders on the ground through our continuing programme of making improvements to the protection level of vehicles in service and procurement of new vehicles types.

Service Accommodation

24. **Simon Hughes:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what recent assessment he has made of the adequacy of provision of service accommodation for armed forces personnel and their families; and if he will make a statement. [267199]

Mr. Kevan Jones: A condition survey has been carried out on Service Family Accommodation (SFA) in England and Wales as set out in my written ministerial statement on 17 March. This confirms that the vast majority of properties fall within the two highest standards for condition. The National Audit Office has recently assessed independently that SFA in the two highest standards for condition meet or exceed the Government's Decent Homes Standard. We recognise that some properties do not meet the high standards to which we aspire—and that Service personnel and their families deserve—and more needs to be done, but we are making progress even though we are having to make good decades of underinvestment.

Air Trooping Arrangements

Mr. Carswell: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what recent assessment he has made of the capacity and reliability of air trooping arrangements. [267181]

Mr. Hutton: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave today to the hon. Members for North-West Cambridgeshire (Mr. Vara) and Wellingborough (Mr. Bone).

Afghanistan

Mr. Holloway: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what recent assessment he has made of the security situation in Afghanistan. [267188]

Mr. Swayne: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what his latest assessment is of the security situation in Afghanistan. [267198]

Mr. Hutton: Progress has been made but the insurgency remains resilient. The majority of people can go about their daily lives but, in certain areas of the country, particularly in the south and east, significant security challenges remain.

The Taliban have failed using conventional tactics and are turning to increasingly indiscriminate attacks, which show complete disregard for the safety of the local population.

Army Uniforms

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence when he expects the cut and sew contract for army uniforms to go out to tender; and if he will make a statement. [267195]

Mr. Quentin Davies: The cut and sew tendering process is scheduled to begin next month. Careful planning is under way to ensure that the best possible clothing is available to our armed forces personnel, while ensuring best value for money for UK taxpayers.

Defence Training Review

Mark Pritchard: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what his most recent estimate is of the cost of the Defence Training Review contract. [267197]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The current estimate of the cost of the Defence Training Review Package 1 Project is £12 billion. This represents the cost for the provision of the construction of new facilities at St. Athan and the whole operating costs for the entire 30 year life of the project. These operating costs include staff, catering and maintenance costs, the majority of which we already carry today.

Afghanistan and Iraq: Peacekeeping Operations

Dr. Julian Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many Royal Navy personnel were engaged on land in *(a)* Afghanistan and *(b)* Iraq on the latest date for which figures are available. [267791]

Mr. Hutton: The endorsed size of the force committed to Operation HERRICK 9 is just over 8,000. As announced by the Prime Minister on 15 December 2008, *Official Report*, column 816, the number of British troops deployed to Afghanistan has temporarily been increased to around 8,300, of which more than 2,000 are currently drawn from the Royal Navy including the Royal Marines. This figure will decrease over the coming weeks, as 19 Light Brigade replace 3 Commando Brigade as the core of the Helmand taskforce.

There are currently some 4,100 members of the UK armed forces deployed on land in southern Iraq under Operation TELIC 13, just under 200 of which are members of the Royal Navy.

The precise number of personnel in each theatre at any one time fluctuates very significantly and on a daily basis for a variety of reasons, including mid-tour rest and recuperation, temporary absence for training, evacuation for medical reasons, the roulement of forces and visits. We do not therefore publish actual figures for personnel deployed in theatre.

Afghanistan: Peacekeeping Operations

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the average number of UK *(a)* service personnel and *(b)* civilian staff stationed in Afghanistan was in each financial year from 2001-02 to 2007-08. [258867]

Mr. Hutton: Information on the average number of service and Ministry of Defence civilian personnel stationed in Afghanistan in each financial year from 2001-02 to 2007-08 is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost. The number of personnel in theatre at any one time fluctuates significantly on a daily basis for a variety of reasons, including mid-tour rest and recuperation, temporary absence for training, evacuation for medical reasons, the roulement of forces and visits.

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many British troops have served in Afghanistan since 2001. [259409]

Mr. Hutton: Due to continuing validation of data from Legacy Service Personnel Administrative systems and the Joint Personnel Administration (JPA) 'Move & Track' system, data on the total numbers of deployed personnel to Afghanistan since 2001 are not available and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

As at 1 February 2009 there were 31,500 serving members of the UK armed forces who have been deployed to Afghanistan since 2003. This figure does not include personnel deployed to Afghanistan between the periods 1 January 2003 and 14 October 2005 or those who had left the armed forces by 31 January 2009.

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many *(a)* precision-guided munitions and *(b)* gravity bombs of each type have been dropped in Afghanistan by British (i) fixed-wing aircraft and (ii) unmanned aerial vehicles in each year since 2005. [266938]

Mr. Hutton: The number of precision-guided munitions and free fall weapons dropped in Afghanistan since 2005 are provided in the tables.

Fixed wing

		2005	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*	*2009*[1]
Precision-guided	UK Paveway 2	2	8	10	12	—
	UK Enhanced Paveway 2	13	60	105	71	—
	AGM-114	—	38	183	97	50
	UK Enhanced Paveway 4	—	—	—	8	22
Gravity bombs	540 LB	5	81	72	37	—
	1,000 LB	—	17	4	—	—

[1] Up to 24March 2009

UAV

		2008	*2009*[1]
Precision-guided	AGM-114	29	1
	GBU-12	13	—

[1] Up to 24 March 2009

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many Gibraltarian troops are serving in Afghanistan. [267099]

Mr. Hutton: At present there are no members of the Royal Gibraltar Regiment serving in Afghanistan.

Air Force: Deployment

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the *(a)* average and *(b)* highest number of days detached duty was for each Royal Air Force trade in the last 12 months. [266943]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: Detached duty is absence from the normal place of work whether operational or training. The average and highest number of days detached duty for each Royal Air Force trade in the last 12 months is provided in the following table.

Branch/trade	*Average number of days on detached duty*	*Highest number of days detached*
Officers		
Pilot	76	315
Weapon systems officer	79	331
Operations support (aerospace battle manager)	87	209
Operations support (air traffic control)	106	360
Operations support (intelligence)	104	279
Operations support (regiment)	104	261
Operations support (provost/security)	117	274
Operations support (flight operations)	100	268
Engineer	92	310
Personnel (support)	114	300
Personnel (physical education)	106	241
Personnel (training)	139	340
Logistics	106	316
Medical	161	304
Medical support	144	231
Medical nursing officer	124	335
Dental	85	126
Chaplains	98	150
Legal	72	164
Music	97	175
Non commissioned aircrew		
Weapon systems operator (crewman)	76	300
Weapon systems operator (electronic warfare/acoustics)	55	192
Weapon systems operator (linguist)	119	112
Weapon systems operator (air engineer)	60	123

Branch/trade	*Average number of days on detached duty*	*Highest number of days detached*
Airmen		
Aircraft engineering technician	66	304
Aircraft technician (avionics)	69	360
Aircraft technician (mechanical)	71	335
Engineering technician weapons	75	266
Information and communication technology manager	93	336
Information and communication technology technician	99	301
Information and communication technology aerial erector	67	213
General engineering technician	70	171
General technical electrical	83	248
General technical mechanical	96	346
General technical workshops	75	185
Logistics (driver)	97	319
Royal air force police	95	317
Gunner	117	282

Any trade with less than 10 days have been excluded from the table so that the average figure is based on a reasonable representative sample.

Air Force: Manpower

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the *(a)* required strength, *(b)* actual strength and *(c)* percentage shortfall in each trade of the Royal Air Force is. [266932]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The following table shows the liability, strength and shortfall or surplus in real numbers and percentage figures, for RAF trades as at 1 January 2009.

Trades	*Liability*	*Strength*	*Shortfall/Surplus*	
			Number	*Percentage*
Weapon Systems Operator (Crewman)	580	500	-80	-14
Weapon Systems Operator (Electronic Warfare/Acoustic)	440	440	0	0
Weapon Systems Operator (Linguist)	60	50	-10	-17
Weapon Systems Operator (Air Engineer)	170	150	-20	-12
Aircraft Engineering Technician	420	430	10	+2
Aircraft Technician (Avionics)	3,760	3,570	-190	-5
Aircraft Technician (Mechanical)	4,740	4,600	-140	-3
Engineering Technician Weapons	1,640	1,520	-120	-7
Information and Communication Technology Manager	300	310	10	+3
Information and Communication Technology Technician	2,490	2,440	-50	-2
Information and Communication Technology Aerial Erector	110	120	10	+9
General Engineering Technician	80	80	0	0
General Technician Electrical	530	480	-50	-9
General Technician Mechanical	920	800	-120	-13
General Technician Workshops	140	130	-10	-7
Logistics Mechanical Transport Driver	1,110	1,060	-50	-5
Royal Air Force Police	1,280	1,290	10	+1
Gunner	1,930	1,750	-180	-9
Fire Fighter	540	540	0	0
Air Traffic Control/Air Traffic Control Assistant/ Flight Operations Manager/Flight Operations Assistant	1,250	1,240	-10	-1
Royal Air Force Physical Training Instructor	510	500	-10	-2
Intelligence Analyst	680	580	-100	-15
Intelligence Analyst (Voice)	190	170	-20	-11
Aerospace Systems (Operator/Manager)/Senior Non Commissioned Officer Weapons Controller	670	690	20	+3
Survival Equipment Fitter	610	550	-60	-10
Photographer	180	170	-10	-6
Air Cartographer	80	70	-10	-13
Pharmacy Technician	20	20	0	0
Environmental Health Technician	50	40	-10	-20
Operating Department Practitioner	30	30	0	0
Radiographer	10	10	0	0
Biomedical Scientist	20	10	-10	-50
Registered Nurse (Adult)	300	300	0	0
Registered Nurse (Mental Health)	30	30	0	0

Trades	*Liabilities*	*Strength*	*Shortfall/Surplus*	
			Number	*Percentage*
Dental Technician	10	10	0	0
Dental Hygienist	20	20	0	0
Dental Nurse	130	130	0	0
RAF Medic	600	600	0	0
Personnel (Support)	1,460	1,360	-100	-7
Logistics (Supplier)	1,850	1,800	-50	-3
Logistics (Mover)	900	850	-50	-6
Logistics (Catering Manager)	70	60	-10	-14
Logistics (Chef)	640	670	30	+5
Logistics (Caterer)	400	380	-20	-5
Musician	180	150	-30	-17

Notes:
1. Trade data have been rounded up to the nearest 10 in accordance with DASA policy and the requirements of the Data Protection Act 1998.
2. All percentages have been rounded to the nearest whole number.

Armed Forces: Crime

Colin Challen: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what *(a)* compensation and *(b)* other remedy is available for a British citizen who is the victim of a serious offence committed by a uniformed and on duty member of a visiting force in cases where a certificate of immunity has been submitted to a court under the Visiting Forces Act 1952. [267286]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: Under the terms of the NATO Status of Forces Agreement anyone having a claim for loss or damage against a member of a visiting force arising out of actions carried out as part of their official duties should make that claim to the Ministry of Defence Claims branch where it will be considered in the same way as a claim against a member of the UK armed forces.

Armed Forces: Housing

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many and what percentage of overseas *(a)* service family and *(b)* single living accommodation units there are in each condition grade in each country. [266935]

Mr. Kevan Jones: With the exception of Germany all overseas Service Family Accommodation (SFA) has been assessed for its Standard for Condition (SfC), a measure of the physical condition of the property.

As at April 2008, overseas SFA was at the following SfC:

	S1fC		*S2fC*		*S3fC*		*S4fC*		*Total*	
Country	*No.*	*%*	*No.*	*%*	*No.*	*%*	*No.*	*%*	*No.*	*%*
Cyprus	287	12	401	18	151	7	1,411	63	2,250	55
Falkland/Ascension Islands	15	16	21	22	49	51	11	11	96	3
Gibraltar	160	35	24	6	74	16	197	43	455	11
Rest of the world	94	8	658	52	218	17	285	23	1,255	31
Total	556	13	1104	29	492	12	1904	46	4,056	—

Germany SFA is assessed for its Grade for Charge (GfC), an assessment of a property's condition and other factors including scale (size), location and environmental factors.

As at November 2008 Germany SFA was at the following GfC:

	G1fC		*G2fC*		*G3fC*		*G4fC*		
Country	*No.*	*%*	*No.*	*%*	*No.*	*%*	*No.*	*%*	*Total*
Germany	2,058	16	5,943	47	3,508	30	1,061	7	12,570

All Single Living Accommodation (SLA) is separately assessed for its physical condition and 'scale' (as defined in Joint Service Publication 315 which is available to view at:

http://www.defence-estates.mod.uk/publications/jsp/jsp315/volumel/index.php

As at June 2008, the latest date for which figures are available, SLA was at the following grade:

	Grade 1		*Grade 2*		*Grade 3*		*Grade 4*		*Total*	
Country	*No.*	*%*	*No.*	*%*	*No.*	*%*	*No.*	*%*	*No.*	*%*
Cyprus	26	2	—	—	614	43	782	55	1,422	6

	Grade 1		*Grade 2*		*Grade 3*		*Grade 4*		*Total*	
Country	*No.*	*%*	*No.*	*%*	*No.*	*%*	*No.*	*%*	*No.*	*%*
Falkland/Ascension Islands	10	3	—	—	—	—	3,430	99.7	3,440	16
Germany	2,639	17	1,547	10	4,746	31	6,504	42	15,436	69
Gibraltar	—	—	225	52	84	19	128	29	437	2
Rest of the world	32	2	44	3	59	3	1,523	92	1,658	7
Total	2,707	12	1,816	8	5,503	25	12,375	55	22,401	—

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many and what percentage of (a) service family and (b) single living accommodation units in (i) England, (ii) Scotland, (iii) Wales and (iv) Northern Ireland is in each condition grade. [266936]

Mr. Kevan Jones: An asset survey of Service Family Accommodation (SFA) in England and Wales has recently been undertaken to help plan and prioritise the maintenance and improvement of SFA properties more effectively and to target resources at areas of greatest need. Of the 44,000 SFA properties in England and Wales, over 40,500 have so far been surveyed. The following Standard for Condition (SfC) of these properties are provided in the table below.

SFC	*Number*	*Percentage*
S1FC	12,983	32
S2FC	23,127	57
S3FC	4,057	10
S4FC	406	1

The remaining properties will be surveyed between now and April 2010 and consideration is being given to undertaking similar surveys of SFA in Scotland and Northern Ireland (NI).

Current data for Scotland are provided in the following table.

SFC	*Number*	*Percentage*
S1FC	3,120	97
S2FC	102	3
S3FC	5	1

At present, no data are available for NI, however the accommodation is considered to be generally in good condition.

All Single Living Accommodation (SLA) is separately assessed for its physical condition and scale. As at June 2008, SLA was at the following grade:

	Grade 1		*Grade 2*		*Grade 3*		*Grade 4*		
Country	*No.*	*%*	*No.*	*%*	*No.*	*%*	*No.*	*%*	*Total*
England	30,705	25	15,702	13	18,862	15	56,799	47	122,068
Northern Ireland	1,002	24	960	23	1,402	34	776	19	4,140
Scotland	2,555	33	1,559	20	1,677	21	2,041	26	7,832
Wales	671	21	1,277	39	160	5	1,129	35	3,237
UK Total	34,933	26	19,498	14	22,101	16	60,745	44	137,277

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many overseas *(a)* service family and *(b)* single living accommodation units were in each condition grade in each year since 2001. [266945]

Mr. Kevan Jones: The requested information will take time to collate and verify. I will write to the hon. Member with the information that is available and place a copy of my letter in the Library of the House.

Armed Forces: Mental Health Services

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many new referrals to each department of community mental heath there *(a)* were in 2008 and *(b)* have been to date in 2009. [266934]

Mr. Kevan Jones: Statistics on referrals and initial assessments at the MOD's 15 Military Departments of Community Mental Health are collated and published quarterly by the Defence Analysis and Statistical Advice organisation (DASA). Data for 2008 are currently being validated. DASA plans to publish data for quarters one and two of 2008 in April 2009, quarters three and four of 2008 in June and an annual report for 2008 in July. Data for the first quarter of 2009 are currently being collected.

Data provided in the following table and text below updates that provided in my previous answer to the hon. Gentleman on 13 November 2008, *Official Report*, column 1299W. The changes are a result of two personnel who were seen in 2007 not being recorded until 2008. Please note that all figures relate to new attendances and not referrals.

The Ministry of Defence's 15 military Departments of Community Mental Health (DCMHs) across the UK, plus satellite centres in Cyprus and Germany, provide out-patient mental health care for members of the armed forces. The following table provides the number of new attendances at the DCMHs during 2007.

DCMH	*New attendances in 2007*
Aldershot	394
Brize Norton	654

DCMH	*New attendances in 2007*
Catterick	720
Colchester	340
Cranwell	239
Cyprus	82
Donnington	385
Faslane	178
Germany	578
Haslar	307
HQNI	146
Kinloss	166
Leuchars	154
Marham	211
Plymouth	488
Tidworth	379
Woolwich	228
Total	5,649

The figures record all new attendances at DCMHs (i.e. people who have not attended a DCMH previously), and therefore does not include those who were receiving treatment which started prior to January 2007.

The figures include all people who attended a DCMH appointment, not all of whom will have been subsequently diagnosed to have a mental disorder. Of the 5,649 service personnel seen for initial assessment during 2007, 3,920 personnel (69 per cent.) were diagnosed with a mental disorder.

AWE Aldermaston

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Portsmouth South of 18 December 2008, *Official Report*, column 964W, on AWE Aldermaston, if he will place in the Library a copy of any Preliminary Safety Report prepared by the Directorate of Major Projects when it has been completed at AWE Aldermaston for the proposed Enriched Uranium Facility and Hydrodynamics Facility at AWE Aldermaston which has been provided to the Health and Safety Executive. [265156]

Mr. Quentin Davies: Neither of these documents currently exist. They will be assessed for placement in the Library of the House if and when they are produced.

Cluster Munitions

Mr. Sarwar: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what steps he plans to take to implement the UK's obligations under the terms of the Oslo convention on cluster munitions. [267193]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The Ministry of Defence immediately withdrew service cluster munitions prohibited by the convention from operational service following the adoption of the text of the convention on cluster munitions on 30 May 2008 and before its signature on 3 December 2008. Further, the MOD has already started a destruction programme that aims to destroy these munitions ahead of the deadline set out in the convention of eight years after its entry into force.

Defence: Equipment

Mr. Gerald Howarth: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the answer of 16 March 2009, *Official Report*, column 831W, on Iraq: peacekeeping operations, what mechanism is used to assess a proposal to gift equipment. [266393]

Mr. Hutton: Surplus assets are considered for sale before being considered for gifting. Any proposals for the gifting of equipment in Iraq are scrutinized by the Ministry of Defence's Operational Planning Group (Redistribution). This group was established in October 2008 to address the drawdown of UK forces in Iraq. Gifting of items with a value of less that £250k can be authorised by the Ministry of Defence; any items with a value greater than £250,000 can only be authorised by HM Treasury and Parliament.

Departmental Data Protection

Patrick Mercer: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence with reference to Article 1.16 of the Final Report on Data Handling Procedures in Government of June 2008, whether any personal data from his Department were illegally traded in 2008. [267233]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: We are not aware of any incidents of this type.

Departmental Domestic Visits

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence on how many occasions he has visited each region of England in an official capacity in the last 15 months. [266942]

Mr. Hutton: Since I assumed the role of Secretary of State for Defence on 4 October 2008 and up to 24 March 2009, I have made the following official visits to the English regions, as defined by the Government offices for the English regions:

English region	*Number of official visits*
North East	1
North West	2
Yorkshire and the Humber	1
East Midlands	2
West Midlands	1
South West	5
South East	9
London	12
East of England	2

There are inevitably a number of occasions where judgment has been applied as to whether the activity qualifies as a visit or official engagement, particularly in London.

Departmental Empty Property

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what estimate he has made of the change in the annual cost to his Department of maintaining the empty public buildings owned by his Department as a result of the April 2008 changes to empty property rate relief. [267135]

Mr. Kevan Jones: Due to the specialist nature of the majority of the defence estate, its lack of any commercial value in rating terms and the recognition that any vacant estate is normally to be disposed of, the incremental cost of change to empty property rate relief is minimal.

Departmental Energy

Greg Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much *(a)* electricity, *(b)* gas and *(c)* other fuel was used by (i) his Department and (ii) each of its agencies in each of the last 10 years. [267337]

Mr. Kevan Jones: The Ministry of Defence's annual consumption data for electricity, gas and other fuel for the period 1999-2000 to 2007-08 are provided in the following table:

	MWh (weather corrected)		
	Electricity	*Gas*	*Other fuel*[1]
1999-2000	1,750,060	3,569,734	1,360,521
2000-01	2,082,485	3,597,251	933,858
2001-02	1,894,069	3,653,203	1,329,432
2002-03	1,995,090	3,753,325	1,064,453
2003-04	2,056,586	3,920,002	987,451
2004-05	2,012,300	4,162,749	971,669
2005-06	1,854,817	3,643,914	894,958
2006-07	1,827,263	3,551,586	878,442
2007-08	1,777,378	3,076,840	842,939

[1] Includes heating oil, LPG, coal.

The 2008-09 consumption figures for electricity, gas and other fuels are not yet available but will be reported later in the year in the Sustainable Operations on Government Estate return.

Departmental Publications

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what estimate he has made of the *(a)* production and printing and *(b)* other costs to his Department of producing its most recent (i) departmental annual report and (ii) autumn performance report. [266697]

Mr. Kevan Jones: Production and printing costs of the Ministry of Defence annual report and accounts 2007-08 was £35,824. The autumn performance report was produced in-house under a corporate reproduction contract at no additional cost. Other costs associated with the production of these reports are not centrally held and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Training

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether his Department has provided voice coaching to any of its employees in the last 12 months. [260640]

Mr. Kevan Jones: The information requested is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Training

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many training courses were taken by *(a)* civil servants and *(b)* Ministers in his Department in each of the last three years; and what the total cost of training was in each year. [265301]

Mr. Kevan Jones: The information requested is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Erasmus: EU Defence Policy

Mrs. Curtis-Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will assess the potential merits of pluriannual funding for a Military Erasmus programme from the European Security and Defence Policy budget. [266898]

Mr. Hutton: There are no plans for pluriannual funding for the European Initiative on the exchange of young officers inspired by Erasmus, nor is there a separate European Security and Defence Policy budget for such initiatives. The scheme, sometimes described as military Erasmus, is a voluntary arrangement in which member states can choose to participate at their own cost. The UK is not participating in this scheme.

EU Defence Policy

Mrs. Curtis-Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what reports he received from the Inter-Parliamentary European Security and Defence Assembly in 2008; and which of those he has responded to. [267359]

Mr. Hutton: The Department had regular contact with the European Security and Defence Assembly throughout 2008 but we did not receive any reports from the Assembly.

Iraq: Peacekeeping Operations

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the average number of UK *(a)* service personnel and *(b)* civilian staff stationed in Iraq was in each financial year from 2002-03 to 2007-08. [258868]

Mr. Hutton: Information on the average number of service and Ministry of Defence civilian personnel stationed in Iraq in each financial year from 2002-03 to 2007-08 is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost. The number of personnel in theatre at any one time fluctuates significantly on a daily basis for a variety of reasons, including mid-tour rest and recuperation, temporary absence for training, evacuation for medical reasons, the roulement of forces and visits.

Information on the number of military personnel deployed in Iraq at the end of May in each of the last six years has, however, been made available on the Department's website, and can be found at:

http://www.mod.uk/DefenceInternet/Templates/Factsheet
.aspx?NRMODE=Published&NRNODEGUID=%7bF0
BBIDFIA9C74E1796E7B3301B06E45F%7d&NRORIGIN
ALURL=%2fDefenceInternet%2fFactSheets%2fOperations
Factsheets%2fDperationsInIraqFactsandFigures%2ehtm&NRC
ACHEHINT =Guest#mc2

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many British troops have served in Iraq since 2003. [259493]

Mr. Hutton: Due to ongoing validation of data from Legacy Service Personnel Administrative systems and the Joint Personnel Administration (JPA) "Move and Track" system, data on the total number of deployed personnel to Iraq since 2003 are not available and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

As at 1 February 2009 there were 91,300 serving members of the UK armed forces who have been deployed to Iraq and the Gulf region since 2003. This figure does not include personnel who have served in Iraq and the Gulf region but who had left the armed forces by 31 January 2009.

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many seaborne attacks by armed gangs *(a)* in the Persian Gulf, *(b)* in the vicinity of Umm Qasr and *(c)* near the Basra oil terminal have been recorded by his Department in each year since 2007. [266941]

Mr. Hutton: No reports of serious incidents involving attacks by non-state forces operating from the sea against coalition naval assets in these geographical areas have been recorded since 2007.

Iraq: Peacekeeping Operations

Adam Price: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the answer of 9 March 2009, *Official Report*, column 176W, on Iraq: peacekeeping operations, for what reasons he does not publish information on individuals captured outside multi-national Division South-East. [265409]

Mr. Hutton: Given the sensitive nature of these operations it is not the practice of the Department to comment upon them.

Military Aircraft: Helicopters

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many Lynx helicopters in each service were fitted with voice box recorders in each year since 2003. [266937]

Mr. Quentin Davies: The following tables provide the number of Royal Navy and Army Lynx helicopters that were fitted with Cockpit Voice Recorders (CVRs) during each year since 2003.

Royal Navy

	2003	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*	*2009*	*Total fitted*
Mk3	—	—	—	24	7	—	—	31
Mk8	—	—	—	27	3	10	4	44

Army

	2003	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*	*2009*	*Total fitted*
Mk7	—	—	1	47	21	4	1	74
Mk9[1]	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	24

[1] 24 Lynx Mk9 helicopters entered service in 1991/92 with CVRs already fitted at initial build

NATO: EU Defence Policy

Mrs. Curtis-Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what assessment he has made of the likely effects of France's re-integration into the military structure of NATO on future development of European Security and Defence Policy. [266896]

Mr. Hutton: Since the inception of European Security and Defence Policy the UK's policy has been that the EU and NATO are both important organisations in dealing with international crisis management but that they need to be complementary and not duplicate each other.

President Sarkozy has regularly emphasised this need for complementarity between EU and NATO. France's intention to rejoin NATO's military structures is welcome and should help to reinforce the importance of this approach.

Nuclear Submarines

Dr. Julian Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many warheads have typically been deployed at sea on Trident submarine patrols since 1997. [266840]

Mr. Hutton: In the 1998 Strategic Defence Review we announced that we will have only one submarine on patrol at a time, carrying a reduced load of 48 warheads. Before the Strategic Defence Review, the announced ceiling was 96.

Dr. Julian Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the typical duration of mid-life Trident submarine refits has been since 1997. [266841]

Mr. Hutton: Of the four Vanguard class submarines, two have already completed long overhaul periods (refuelling) (LOP(R)). The LOP(R) for HMS Vanguard started in February 2002 and was completed after three years and six months; the LOP(R) for HMS Victorious was started in January 2005 and was completed after three years and eight months.

Dr. Julian Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what estimate he has made of the probable duration of major ballistic missile submarine refits when no mid-life refuelling of the reactor is required. [266842]

Mr. Hutton: All Vanguard class submarines have been, or will be, fitted with long life reactor cores that will last for the remainder of their operational life without the need for refuelling. These cores are being fitted as part of the submarines' long overhaul periods (refuelling) (LOP(R)s).

Vanguard class submarines with long life cores will subsequently undergo long overhaul periods (LOPs). Work is still under way to determine the composition of the work package for a LOP; it is therefore too early to-estimate their duration.

Mr. Alan Reid: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what steps he plans to take to ensure the compatibility of the new generation of Trident submarines with future generations of Trident missiles planned for entry into service in 2042; and if he will make a statement. [266848]

Mr. Hutton *[holding answer 26 March 2009]:* It is our intention that both the future UK and US submarines will share a common missile compartment within which the missiles will be carried. In the event that the US decides to develop a successor to the Trident D5 missile, there is no risk that it will be incompatible with this common compartment and hence with the future UK submarine.

Dr. Julian Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether the *(a)* missile launch tubes and *(b)* missile compartments in UK and US ballistic missile submarines have conformed to a common design since the adoption by the UK of a submarine-based nuclear deterrent. [267582]

Mr. Hutton: Since the adoption by the UK of a submarine-based nuclear deterrent, the UK has conformed to a common design for the missile launch tubes for both the Polaris and Trident systems. Missile compartments for both systems conform to US specifications necessary to incorporate the US-supplied weapon system. There are, however, agreed variations to reflect UK-specific requirements.

Nuclear Weapons

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many UK personnel have visited the Nevada test site in each year since 2002; and what the *(a)* dates and *(b)* purposes were of each joint UK/US experiment undertaken at the Nevada test site since January 2002. [267151]

Mr. Quentin Davies: The total number of UK personnel visiting the Nevada test site under the auspices of the joint United Kingdom/United States Mutual Defence Agreement (MDA) is provided in the following table.

	Number
2002	27
2003	62
2004	30
2005	89
2006	53
2007	58
2008	91

These figures include personnel making more than one visit in any given year.

Two specific sub-critical plutonium experiments were conducted in 2002 and 2006, the purpose of which was to gather scientific data essential for the maintenance and reliability of both US and UK nuclear weapons without having to conduct underground nuclear tests. The increased activity in 2005 coincides with preparations for the second of these experiments.

The increased activity in 2008 reflects a number of unrelated visits associated with stockpile maintenance activities and a specific classified project relating to nuclear counter-terrorism, details of which I am withholding in the interests of national security.

In addition to these visits, a number of other non-MDA related visits will have taken place. Statistics covering these visits are not centrally held and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Piracy

Mrs. Curtis-Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what protocols govern the seizure of suspected pirate ships and their equipment by British armed forces. [267354]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: Royal Navy vessels participating in counter-piracy operations are provided with detailed rules of engagement (ROE) setting out the measures they may take in relation to pirate vessels, including the seizure of suspected pirate vessels and equipment. These ROE are in accordance with international law, including the United Nations convention on the law of the sea (UNCLOS), and are kept under regular review.

I am withholding details of ROE as their release would be likely to prejudice the capability, effectiveness or security of our armed forces.

RAF Menwith Hill

Colin Challen: To ask the Secretary of Sta[illegible] Defence what agreements the Government has with the US administration governing the use of RAF Menwith Hill by the National Security Agency. [267285]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The use of RAF Menwith Hill by the United States Visiting Force and US Agencies is governed by the terms of the NATO Status of Forces Agreement of 1951 and other confidential arrangements between the UK and US.

Colin Challen: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence when the Space-Based Infrared System at RAF Menwith Hill is due to become operational. [267445]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The Space-Based Infrared Red System (SBIRS) facilities at RAF Menwith Hill are ready for operation. The operational date for SBIRS is a matter for the United States, but is unlikely to be before 2010.

USA: Military Bases

Colin Challen: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence which British military bases will *(a)* form part of and *(b)* provide services in support of the US missile defence system. [267284]

Mr. Hutton: In support of the US missile defence system, the UK provides missile early warning information from the radar at RAF Fylingdales, and allows the US to route early warning satellite data via a satellite downlink at RAF Menwith Hill.

Veterans Day: Finance

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what financial assistance his Department has provided to Veterans Day events in each year since Veterans Day was introduced. [266727]

Mr. Kevan Jones: Veterans Day was introduced in 2006 and grew successfully year on year. In 2008 following publication of the "Report of Inquiry into National

Recognition of our Armed Forces" the decision was taken for Veterans Day to evolve into Armed Forces Day; the inaugural Armed Forces Day will take place on 27 June 2009. The amounts awarded to community led Veterans Day events are provided for each year in the following table, which do not include the costs associated with the provision of other support such as bands, display aircraft or armed forces' personnel.

	MOD funding (£)
2006	260,304
2007	363,586
2008	400,762

Warships

Dr. Julian Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the out-of-service dates are for each mine countermeasures vessel; and what the projected in-service dates are for each successor vessel. [267788]

Mr. Quentin Davies: Our present planning assumptions, which are routinely updated as required, are provided in the following table:

Name	*Out of service date*
Hunt class	
HMS Ledbury	2019
HMS Cattistock	2020
HMS Brocklesbury	2020
HMS Chiddingfold	2020
HMS Middleton	2020
HMS Hurworth	2022
HMS Atherstone	2022
HMSQuorn	2023
Sandown class	
HMS Walney	2017
HMS Penzance	2023
HMS Pembroke	2023
HMS Grimsby	2024
HMS Bangor	2024
HMS Ramsey	2025
HMS Blyth	2026
HMS Shoreham	2026

Our future requirements for maritime mine detection and clearance are under consideration and our capabilities will be developed over the coming years in order to best meet those requirements.

Dr. Julian Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence for which *(a)* Royal Navy and *(b)* Royal Fleet Auxiliary vessels orders have been placed since May 1997. [267789]

Mr. Quentin Davies: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave on 25 March 2009, *Official Report*, columns 444-48W, to the hon. Member for Woodspring (Dr. Fox).

Dr. Julian Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the planned future numbers are of Royal Navy *(a)* destroyers, *(b)* frigates and *(c)* attack submarines. [267790]

Mr. Quentin Davies: The planned future number of destroyers is six Type 45 Daring class. The number of frigates to be procured under the Future Surface Combatant programme will be decided as part of the main investment decision. The planned future number of attack submarines is seven Astute class.

Dr. Julian Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the crew totals are for *(a)* Astute and *(b)* Trafalgar-class submarines, *(c)* Type 45 and *(d)* Type 42 destroyers, *(e)* current aircraft carriers, *(f)* future aircraft carriers, *(g)* future surface combatants and *(h)* Type 23 frigates. [267792]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave on 13 November 2007, *Official Report*, column 129W, to the hon. Member for Woodspring (Dr. Fox). Manning levels of ships are adjusted according to their task and detailed statistics on these manning judgments are not held centrally.

HEALTH

Burns: north-west

Derek Twigg: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many serious burn cases have been dealt with by each burn unit in the north-west in each year since 2001. [266836]

Ann Keen: Not all of the information requested is available centrally. Relevant information held on the National Burn Injury Database is included in the following table:

Northern burn care network

							Severe/complex patient number
Hospital	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*	*Total*
Paediatrics							
Wakefield	3	2	7	4	1	7	24
Manchester	6	2	3	4	5	4	24
Liverpool	3	6	2	2	3	4	20
Preston	3	0	2	2	4	2	13
Adults							
Wakefield	9	10	8	5	6	9	47
Manchester	8	8	13	7	12	15	63
Liverpool	4	5	9	11	8	10	47

Northern burn care network

	Severe/complex patient number						
Hospital	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*	*Total*
Preston	4	2	2	8	1	3	20

Source:
National burn injury database.

Dental Services

Mr. Djanogly: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether *(a)* complete upper and lower dentures, *(b)* complete upper dentures only, *(c)* complete lower dentures only, *(d)* partial upper and lower acrylic dentures, *(e)* partial upper acrylic dentures only, *(f)* partial lower acrylic dentures only, *(g)* partial upper and lower cobalt chrome dentures, *(h)* partial upper cobalt chrome dentures only and *(i)* partial lower cobalt chrome dentures only have been provided under the NHS since the introduction of the new dental contract in April 2006. [266741]

Ann Keen: The contractual obligation is for the contractor to provide all proper and necessary dental care and treatment that the patient is willing to undergo. Where appropriate this will include provision of full (complete) or partial dentures, overdentures and obturators in synthetic resin or metal or both synthetic resin and metal, including any cast or wrought metal components or aids to retention.

Dentistry: Education

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what his most recent estimate is of the cost of the first five years of training for a dental student. [266914]

Ann Keen: We estimate that the current average cost of training a dentist over the five year course leading to a Bachelor of Dental Science degree is £170,000 net of tuition fees.

Departmental Public Appointments

Julia Goldsworthy: To ask the Secretary of State for Health which former *(a)* Members of the House of Lords and *(b)* hon. Members who left Parliament since 1997 have been appointed to public bodies for which his Department is responsible; and who made each such appointment. [267854]

Mr. Bradshaw: This information is not held centrally. Information on board membership and remuneration is published in individual bodies' annual reports and accounts.

Departmental Publications

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate he has made of the *(a)* production and printing and *(b)* other costs to his Department of producing its most recent (i) departmental annual report and (ii) autumn performance report. [266693]

Mr. Bradshaw: Costs for production, printing and other items of the most recent published departmental report 2008 (Cm 7393) and autumn performance report 2008 (Cm 7519) are shown in the following table.

	Cost (£)
Departmental Report 2008	
Printing	6,345
Typesetting	8,315
Other	6,064
Autumn Performance Report 2008	
Printing	5,335
Typesetting	4,584
Other	688

Health Services: Greater London

Mr. Burrowes: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment he has made of the effects of recent changes in the funding formula for primary care on primary care trust budgets in *(a)* London and *(b)* Enfield. [265961]

Mr. Bradshaw: The Advisory Committee on Resource Allocation (ACRA) has recently reviewed the formula used to determine revenue allocations to primary care trusts (PCTs) for 2009-10 and 2010-11. ACRA did not review the primary care component of the formula.

Once the allocations have been made it is for PCTs to commission the services they require to meet the health care needs of the local populations and patients they serve taking into account both local and national priorities.

Health Services: Waiting Lists

Mr. Bone: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what account the 18-week target for time from GP referral to start of hospital treatment takes of a patient's request for a second opinion following referral. [267706]

Mr. Bradshaw: The 18-week commitment covers all consultant-led elective services. From 1 January 2009, the minimum expectation of consultant-led elective services will be that no one should wait more than 18 weeks from the time they are referred to the start of their hospital treatment, unless it is clinically appropriate to do so or they choose to wait longer. It includes all appointments including those for diagnostic tests between referral and first definitive treatment.

Nationally, the national health service overall has met the minimum operational standards for 18 weeks—in each month since August 2008.

Referral to treatment data for January 2009 show that:

92.9 per cent. of patients whose treatment involved admission to hospital started their treatment within 18 weeks. The median time waited for admitted patients was 8.6 weeks; and

97.3 per cent. of non-admitted patients waited 18 weeks or less. The median time waited for non-admitted patients was 4.6 weeks.

However, there will be occasions when treatment in 18 weeks may prove not to be possible for good clinical reasons. This may include where a patient and consultant agree that a patient should receive a second expert opinion and it is not in the patient's best clinical interests to be treated in under 18 weeks. A maximum of 18 weeks should remain the clear goal for every patient.

A key principle for 18 weeks is that any decision that a patient will not receive their treatment in 18 weeks, however legitimate this is, should be explicitly communicated to both the patient and their general practitioner.

National Burn Care Review Group

Derek Twigg: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) when the National Burn Care Review Group last met; [266806]

(2) who represents the providers of burn services in Merseyside on the National Burn Care Review Group; [266835]

(3) when he last met the National Burn Care Review Group; [266837]

(4) whether the National Burn Care Review Group is active; and if he will make a statement; [266838]

(5) what communications the National Burn Care Review Group had with providers of burn services in the North West since November 2006. [266839]

Ann Keen: The National Burn Care Group (NBCG) is a sub-group of the National Specialised Commissioning Group (NSCG), a body established on 1 April 2007. The NSCG, the successor to the National Burn Care Review Group, was established to oversee the national commissioning of highly specialised services and facilitate collaborative working at a pan-Specialised Commissioning Group level. The NBCG last met on 24 February 2009. Ministers have not attended any meetings of the NBCG.

There are no provider organisations represented directly on the NBCG. Providers are represented on each of the four networks set up to commission services in their area. In the north-west providers of burn care services are represented on the Strategy Board, the Operational Service Group and the Lead Clinician Forum of the Northern Burn Care Network. The Network Manager and the Clinical Director of the Northern Network reflect their views to the NBCG.

The Department does not hold information on communications between the NBCG and north-west Burn Care providers. Since the Northern Burn Care Network was established in May 2008, communications with providers in the north-west have taken place via the Network's Strategy Board and Operational Services Group.

NHS: Bank Services

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health which hospitals have lost money in the Icelandic banking collapse. [267435]

Mr. Bradshaw: There were no strategic health authorities, primary care trusts or national health service trusts with any Exchequer funds (i.e. taxpayers' money) residing in Icelandic banks.

Hammersmith Hospitals NHS Charities had £1.65 million of charitable funds deposited in the Icelandic bank, Kaupthing Singer and Friedlander.

The Christie Hospital NHS Foundation Trust released a statement on 10 October confirming that they had a deposit of £7.5 million with the Icelandic bank, Kaupthing Singer and Friedlander. £1 million of this was NHS money and £6.5 million was charitable funds.

Central and North West London NHS Foundation Trust also have a deposit of £1 million with the Icelandic bank, Kaupthing Singer and Friedlander, all of this deposit was NHS money.

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what guidance his Department provided to NHS organisations on investing in Icelandic banks. [267518]

Mr. Bradshaw: The Department has provided no specific advice to national health service organisations in respect of investment in Icelandic banks.

There were no strategic health authorities (SHAs), primary care trusts (PCT) or NHS trusts with any Exchequer funds (i.e. taxpayers money) residing in Icelandic banks, although Hammersmith Hospitals NHS Charities had £1.65 million of charitable funds deposited in the Icelandic bank, Kaupthing Singer and Friedlander.

In general, the large majority of cash balances held by NHS organisations will be in Government bank accounts with HM Office of the Paymaster General, which all NHS organisations must hold.

PCTs/SHAs may hold commercial bank accounts but in practice the large majority of cash balances of all SHAs and PCTs will be in Government bank accounts. In addition, SHAs and PCTs are discouraged from holding commercial bank accounts by applying a charge to any average cleared balance over £25,000.

NHS trusts are able to hold commercial bank accounts but in practice the large majority of balances for each NHS trust will be held in Government bank accounts. The Department does not hold any information on the individual commercial bank accounts held by NHS trusts.

NHS foundation trusts are autonomous organisations free from central Government control and NHS foundation trust boards of directors are ultimately and collectively responsible for the financial performance of their trust, including decisions on how and where to invest surplus cash. Monitor, the independent regulator of NHS foundation trusts, regulates NHS foundation trusts, making sure they are well managed and financially strong. Monitor has issued best practice advice to NHS foundation trusts on the investment of cash.

The Christie Hospital NHS Foundation Trust released a statement on 10 October confirming that they had a deposit of £7.5 million with the Icelandic bank, Kaupthing Singer and Friedlander. £1 million of this was NHS money and £6.5 million was charitable funds.

Central and North West London NHS Foundation Trust also have a deposit of £1 million with the Icelandic bank, Kaupthing Singer and Friedlander, all of this deposit was NHS money.

NHS: Death Rate

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health with reference to page 3 of the Healthcare Commission's report on the Mid Staffordshire NHS Foundation Trust, how many alerts regarding mortality the Healthcare Commission has received in respect of each NHS organisation in each of the last five years; which alerts it followed up with the relevant trust in each year; in which such cases it decided that no further action was needed; and for what reason no further action was taken in each such case. [267703]

Mr. Bradshaw: We understand from the chairman of the Healthcare Commission that its system for identifying and following up 'alerts' about apparently high mortality rates has been in operation for less than two years. Details of the methodology used and number of alerts followed up in the first year of operation (August 2007 to July 2008), but not of the trusts concerned, are set out in the commission's report "Following up mortality outliers", which is published on the commission's website at:

> www.healthcarecommission.org.uk/publicationslibrary.cfm?fde_id=10285

- 85 'alerts' were considered in the first year. After statistical analysis, 43 were not pursued with the trusts concerned. The commission pursued the remaining 42 with the trusts until it confirmed it was satisfied with the explanation for the apparently high rates and with actions being taken. When pursuing alerts with trusts the commission looks for:

> evidence that the trust has given serious consideration to the commission's questions and has addressed all of the matters raised;
>
> robust evidence in support of the trust's arguments;
>
> an indication of whether the trust was already aware of the issue and was already taking some form of action;
>
> evidence that the trust is making reasonable clinical judgments; and
>
> assurance that the trust is monitoring its own rates of mortality and is undertaking reviews where necessary.

The chairman of the Healthcare Commission has commented that each 'alert' relates to mortality rates for a specific diagnosis or condition rather than to an overall trust-wide or hospital-wide mortality rate.

Out of Area Treatment: Wales

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Health when he expects to conclude the negotiations for the renewal of the protocol between his Department and the Welsh Assembly Government on commissioning for cross-border patients. [267528]

Mr. Bradshaw: The Government intend to renew the protocol for commissioning cross-border health services with the Welsh Assembly Government by 1 April 2009.

Quarry House

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what visits Ministers in his Department have made to Quarry House in Leeds since July 2007; and what the date of each visit was. [265541]

Mr. Bradshaw: Ministers of this Department have had a number of meetings with Leeds departmental staff in Leeds and by videoconference. The Department makes as much use as possible of technology in holding meetings between Ministers and staff based in Leeds to help reduce both travel costs and carbon emissions. In 2007, Alan Johnson MP, Ben Bradshaw MP, Ivan Lewis MP and Dawn Primarolo MP met staff at an all-staff event at a conference venue in Leeds. In 2008, Alan Johnson MP, Ann Keen MP, Dawn Primarolo MP and Ivan Lewis MP met staff at the next all-staff event in Leeds, which was also based at a conference venue. In 2009, all Ministers attended the Leeds all-staff event by videoconference. The dates on which Ministers have had meetings within Quarry House itself are in the following table:

Date of visit	*Ministerial position*
15 August 2007	Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Health Services (Ann Keen)
20 September 2007	Secretary of State (Alan Johnson)
6 March 2008	Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State (Lord Darzi)
28 August 2008	Secretary of State (Alan Johnson)

Regional Ministers: Travel

Andrew Mackinlay: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether the permanent secretary of his Department has authorised expenditure on travel costs for the parliamentary assistant to the Minister for the South West in accordance with the circumstances envisaged in the Cabinet Secretary's letter to Permanent Secretaries of 2 December 2008. [267157]

Mr. Bradshaw: The permanent secretary has on one occasion (for travel on 26 January 2009) authorised expenditure on travel costs for the parliamentary assistant to the Minister for the South West in accordance with the circumstances envisaged in the Cabinet Secretary's letter to permanent secretaries of 2 December 2008. However, the journey did not take place and no cost was therefore incurred.

WORK AND PENSIONS

Crisis Loans

Miss Begg: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many crisis loans awarded in each of the last five years were made to applicants who had previously received more than three crisis loans in the same year. [262133]

Kitty Ussher: The available information is provided in the following table.

Crisis loan awards for Great Britain

	Number of awards made to applicants who had previously received four or more awards in the year
2003-04	70,700
2004-05	64,800
2005-06	67,000
2006-07	85,900
2007-08	164,300

Notes:
1. If, for example, an applicant received seven awards in a financial year, three awards would be counted in the table.
2. The numbers of applications and repayable loans which could be held on the Social Fund Computer System for an individual customer were increased in October 2006. This means that the figures for 2003-04 to 2005-06 are not strictly comparable with that for 2006-07 or for 2007-08, but the impact is small.
3. Figures have been rounded to the nearest 100.

Source:
Analysis of scans of Crisis Loan final decisions taken in each financial year and held on the Social Fund Computer System on 30 September following the financial year. A final decision is either an initial decision or a review decision. One award is counted for each application which is successful initially and/or on review. For each financial year: awards for which initial decisions were made before the financial year but which were reviewed in the financial year are included on the scan; awards on which initial decisions were made in the financial year but which were reviewed after the year ended are not included on the scan.

Departmental Energy

Greg Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much *(a)* electricity, *(b)* gas and *(c)* other fuel has been used by (i) his Department and (ii) each of its agencies since its inception. [267329]

Jonathan Shaw: The following table gives a breakdown of the energy used by the Department, including its agencies since 2001. As this is consumption data only, it has not been subject to weather correction, and will therefore vary from information published in previous Sustainable Development in Government reports:

	Electricity MWh	*Gas MWh*	*Oil MWh*	*Total MWh*
2001-02	248,692	414,295	31,324	694,311
2002-03	290,691	371,096	23,734	685,520
2003-04	329,573	347,023	22,636	699,232
2004-05	328,376	363,437	22,469	714,283
2005-06	327,461	348,472	17,046	692,979
2006-07	328,992	316,398	12,478	657,869
2007-08	287,936	273,905	10,706	572,547
Total	2,141,722	2,434,626	140,393	4,716,741

Additionally, in 2007-08 the Department consumed 39,433 kWh of heat from waste.

Employment: Autism

Mr. Gray: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate he has made of the percentage of people diagnosed with autism who were in employment in each of the last 10 years; and if he will make a statement. [264835]

Jonathan Shaw: The Department for Work and Pensions does not hold information on employment rates for people with autism.

Flowers

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much was spent by his Department on flowers in the last 12 months. [266285]

Jonathan Shaw: The Department for Work and Pensions does not have a separate or identifiable account code in departmental finance records to distinguish expenditure on flowers. To try and identify any such expenditure would incur a disproportionate amount of time and cost.

Spending public money on flowers as gifts for staff is not allowed under any circumstances, in accordance with published departmental guidance on financial procedures and propriety which is based on the principles set out in Managing Public Money and the Treasury handbook on Regularity and Propriety.

Housing Benefit

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what tapers have been applied in calculations of entitlements to housing benefit in each of the last three years. [266318]

Kitty Ussher: Entitlement to housing benefit is assessed by comparing a customer's net income with an amount intended to cover day to day living expenses called an applicable amount. If the customer's income is below or equal to the applicable amount, they will normally receive the maximum available help with their rent.

If the net income is above the applicable amount, a fixed taper of 65p for each pound that the income exceeds that level is applied. This means the amount of housing benefit is reduced by 65p for each pound of income above the applicable amount.

The fixed taper has been at 65p since the current housing benefit scheme was introduced in 1998.

Jobcentre Plus: Internet

Justine Greening: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many *(a)* job searches Jobcentre Plus handled through its website and *(b)* employers posted vacancies through Jobcentre Plus' Employer Direct Online service in each (i) region and (ii) Jobcentre Plus district in each (A) year from 2002 to 2009 and (B) of the last 24 months. [264264]

Mr. McNulty: People across the country can search for jobs anywhere in the country via the Jobcentre Plus website. It is therefore not possible to determine which region or Jobcentre Plus district a user lives in.

Information on the number of employers who posted vacancies on Employer Direct online is not collated centrally and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Local Housing Allowance

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many *(a)* people and *(b)* households received local housing allowance in each of the last four quarters. [266284]

Kitty Ussher: This information is not currently available.

Mortgages: Government Assistance

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) what level of assistance his Department provided for vulnerable households under the support for mortgage interest scheme in the period immediately prior to 5 January 2009; and what level has been provided under the scheme since that date; [266307]

(2) what definition of vulnerable his Department uses in respect of its support for mortgage interest scheme. [266311]

Kitty Ussher: Help is provided towards the interest on mortgages (known as support for mortgage interest (SMI)) as part of income support (IS), income-based jobseeker's allowance (JSA(IB)), income-related employment and support allowance (ESA(IR)) and state pension credit (SPC).

Prior to 5 January, home owners claiming IS, JSA(IB), ESA(IR) generally had to serve a waiting period of 39 weeks before assistance was provided towards their eligible housing costs. Customers in receipt of state pension credit (SPC) receive help immediately with their housing costs as they do not serve a waiting period.

Some home owners, who were considered to be vulnerable, received help towards their housing costs earlier than 39 weeks. Help for these groups was provided at 50 per cent. of eligible mortgage interest after eight weeks then full eligible assistance after 26 weeks. The groups were: carers; widow(er)s or people who have been abandoned by their partner and who had responsibility for the care of a child; prisoners detained in custody pending trial or sentence upon conviction; and those who had been refused payments under an insurance policy due to either a pre-existing medical condition or because they were infected by HIV or AIDs.

From 5 January 2009, all working age customers (those claiming IS, JSA(IB) or ESA(IR)) making new claims will receive help with 100 per cent. of their eligible housing costs after a waiting period of 13 weeks.

This compares favourably with the previous position because although some customers received 50 per cent. of eligible housing costs after eight weeks under the old rules, they had to wait 26 weeks before receiving 100 per cent. We believe that this more generous help, taken together with the increased capital limit for working age customers from £100,000 to £200,000, will reduce the risk of repossessions.

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the *(a)* maximum amount which could be claimed and *(b)* time limit for claims under the support for mortgage interest scheme was in the period up to 5 January 2009; and what the limit has been since that date. [266309]

Kitty Ussher: Where a home owner is getting income support (IS), income-based jobseeker's Allowance (JSA(IB)), income-related employment and support allowance (ESA(IR)) or state pension credit (SPC) and they have a mortgage, those benefits may include an additional element called support for mortgage interest (SMI). SMI is meant to assist the home owner with the interest on their mortgage, and an additional amount is included in the applicable amount. It is not a separate benefit, rather an integral part of IS, JSA(IB), ESA(IR) and SPC.

The amount of SMI is calculated by applying a standard interest rate (SIR) to the capital outstanding on the mortgage, subject to upper limits on the amount of that capital. From 5 January, for new claims to IS, JSA and ESA, the capital limit was increased from £100,000 to £200,000. The existing £100,000 capital limit has been retained in SPC, but we will allow those getting help via SMI on loans over £100,000 to keep the higher capital limit when they move on to SPC within 12 weeks of a claim for a working age benefit ending, for as long as they remain entitled to SPC.

Previously, the SIR had been set at the Bank of England base rate plus an additional 1.58 per cent. However, the Government are concerned that recent cuts in the base rate will disadvantage significant number of customers on benefit if they are reflected in SMI calculations. For this reason, the Chancellor announced in the pre-Budget report on 24 November 2008 that the SIR will remain at 6.08 per cent. for six months.

In addition, the waiting period before help through SMI starts was shortened from 39 or 26 weeks to 13 weeks for new, some repeat and some existing working age claims. There is no waiting period for home owners claiming SPC.

A two-year time limit on SMI for new, some repeat and some existing JSA claims only was introduced from 5 January 2009. Prior to this, help through SMI was available so long as there was a liability for the mortgage and so long as there was entitlement to JSA.

The SMI changes are a temporary short-term measure intended to help people over the potentially difficult labour market problems they face and help limit repossessions, rather than changing existing qualifying conditions, and will be reviewed once housing market conditions are more favourable.

Motability

Ann Winterton: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many vehicles comprise the Motability fleet. [267290]

Jonathan Shaw: The Motability fleet is currently comprised of 507,000 vehicles.

New Deal Schemes

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the service fee element of the Flexible New Deal contracts will be *(a)* for the first 18 months and *(b)* over the full term of the contract. [262942]

Mr. McNulty *[holding answer 11 March 2009]:* DWP will retain a performance and payment regime based largely on outcomes, providing shortlisted bidders with the opportunity to develop innovative, individually tailored solutions. DWP's expectation is to have a funding model based on 80 per cent. (outcome) and 20 per cent. (fee based) as originally announced. However, in the initial phase of the contract (first 18 months), DWP will consider alternative models based on a higher service fee element. After the initial phase of the contract we anticipate returning to the funding model as originally announced.

Social Fund

Dr. Pugh: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions whether recipients of incapacity benefit are eligible to make an application for a social fund loan. [267254]

Jonathan Shaw: There are two types of social fund loan payment—budgeting loans and crisis loans.

To be eligible for a budgeting loan a person has to be in receipt of a qualifying income related benefit. The qualifying benefits are: income support; income-based jobseeker's allowance; income-related employment and support allowance or pension credit.

Crisis loans, paid to help meet an immediate short-term need in an emergency or as a consequence of a disaster are available to anyone, whether or not they are in receipt of a qualifying benefit.

Social Security Benefits

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people have been disqualified from benefits for 13 weeks under the two strikes policy in each of the last five years for which figures are available. [262825]

Mr. McNulty: The information available is in the table:

	Number of cases where sanction applies	*Number of cases where sanction applied to subsequent benefit entitlement*	*Number of cases where sanction in abeyance—benefit not in payment*
2003-04	72	58	14
2004-05	79	48	31
2005-06	121	74	47
2006-07	104	46	58
2007-08	69	30	39

Vacancies

Mr. Clappison: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many and what proportion of vacancies were advertised in job centres in each of the last 12 months for which figures are available. [263735]

Mr. McNulty *[holding answer 16 March 2009]*: We do not have a recent estimate of the proportion of vacancies in the UK economy advertised at Jobcentre Plus. There have been some one-off surveys that have estimated the Jobcentre Plus share of all vacancies. In 2002, ONS used one such survey to estimate the proportion of total vacancies advertised at Jobcentres at 44 per cent. Allowing for sampling variation, the ratio was likely to be in the range of around a third to a half. However, this estimate is likely to have changed over time.

The following tables show the number of live unfilled Jobcentre Plus vacancies in Great Britain in each of the last 12 months, and the number of unfilled vacancies in the economy according to the Office for National Statistics (ONS) Vacancy Survey. Both measures are snap-shots of the number of opportunities available at a particular point in time and do not reflect the dynamism of the labour market that sees thousands of new job vacancies come up every day.

The data from Jobcentre Plus and the ONS Vacancy Survey are not directly comparable, and so should not be used together to produce such an estimate. The Vacancy Survey is a sample based survey of businesses in the UK and is seasonally adjusted, whereas the Jobcentre Plus data are administrative data that are subject to a high level of seasonality. In addition, there are coverage issues, with the Vacancy Survey covering only civilian vacancies and excluding Agriculture, Forestry and Fishing, whereas the Jobcentre Plus data include non-civilian vacancies.

Number of job vacancies in Great Britain advertised by Jobcentre Plus in each of the last 12 months

	Live unfilled vacancies
2008	
March	[illegible]
April	385,082
May	377,648
June	386,810
July	353,493
August	348,451
September	373,922
October	383,331
November	343,274
December	271,011
2009	
January	193,792
February	238,554

Notes:
1. Data are unrounded, and not seasonally adjusted.
2. The Jobcentre Plus data do not cover the whole UK economy. Coverage relates just to vacancies notified to Jobcentre Plus and as such represent a market share of vacancies throughout the whole economy. This proportion varies over time, according to the occupation of the vacancy and industry of the employer, and by local area. Comprehensive estimates of all job vacancies (not just those notified to Jobcentre Plus) are available from the monthly ONS Vacancy Survey since April 2001, based on a sample of some 6,000 enterprises. However, the ONS survey is currently designed to provide national estimates only.
3. The stocks of live unfilled vacancies reflect more accurately job opportunities available via Jobcentre Plus. In the case of unfilled vacancies, use of the figures on live vacancies is recommended (i.e. excluding suspended vacancies), and this is the default option. Live vacancies may still include some vacancies which have already been filled or are otherwise no longer open to recruits, due to natural lags in procedures for following up vacancies with employers.
4. Jobcentre Plus figures are published at: www.nomisweb.co.uk

Source:
Jobcentre Plus Labour Market System.

Office for National Statistics UK Vacancy Survey

	Level of vacancies (Three-month rolling average estimates)
January to March 2008	687,000
February to April 2008	682,000
March to May 2008	670,000
April to June 2008	649,000
May to July 2008	629,000
June to August 2008	611,000
July to September 2008	599,000
August to October 2008	581,000
September to November 2008	556,000
October to December 2008	531,000

Office for National Statistics UK Vacancy Survey

	Level of vacancies (Three-month rolling average estimates)
November to January 2009	506,000
December to February 2009	482,000

Notes:
1. Data are rounded to the nearest 1,000, and are seasonally adjusted three-month averages.
2. Excludes Agriculture, Forestry and Fishing.
3. November, December and January data on the ONS monthly vacancies estimate have been revised and February data are provisional.
4. ONS monthly vacancies estimates published at: http://www.statistics.gov.uk/downloads/theme_labour/LatestData.xls

Source:
Office for National Statistics Vacancy Survey

Vacancies: Eastbourne

Mr. Waterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the average number of job vacancies in Eastbourne constituency was in each of the last 12 months. [267282]

Kevin Brennan: I have been asked to reply.

The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the Authority to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated March 2009:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question asking what the average number of job vacancies in Eastbourne constituency was in each of the last 12 months. (267282)

The Office for National Statistics estimates the number of vacancies from the Vacancy Survey, however estimates below UK are not available from this source.

An alternative source of information on job vacancies is administrative data from Jobcentre Plus. This data only includes job vacancies notified to Jobcentre Plus and consequently is inconsistent with the UK estimates from the Vacancy Survey, however geographical breakdowns of this data are available.

Table 1 attached, shows the number of live unfilled job vacancies held by Jobcentre Plus for Eastbourne parliamentary constituency for each month from March 2008 to February 2009. Figures from Jobcentre Plus for Great Britain, along with three month averages for the UK from the Vacancy Survey have also been included for comparison.

Table 1: Number of job vacancies[1] in Eastbourne parliamentary constituency, Great Britain and UK

	Not seasonally adjusted	
	Eastbourne	*Great Britain*
2008		
March	440	398,000
April	490	385,000
May	527	378,000
June	677	387,000
July	416	353,000
August	518	348,000
September	552	374,000
October	536	383,000
November	514	343,000
December	491	271,000
2009		
January	399	194,000
February	292	239,000

[1] Job Vacancies for Eastbourne and Great Britain are live unfilled vacancies from the Jobcentre Plus administrative data. These are inconsistent with the UK figures from the ONS Vacancy Survey.

Source:
Jobcentre Plus Administrative Data

	Seasonally adjusted UK
January to March 2008	687,000
February to April 2008	682,000
March to May 2008	670,000
April to June 2008	649,000
May to July 2008	629,000
June to August 2008	611,000
July to September 2008	599,000
August to October 2008	581,000
September to November 2008	556,000
October to December 2008	531,000
November 2008 to January 2009	506,000
December 2008 to February 2009	482,000

Source:
Vacancy Survey, ONS

Vocational Training: Jobcentre Plus

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many of the training courses to which Jobcentre Plus offers access lead to a certified qualification. [262340]

Mr. McNulty: The information requested is not collated centrally.

Workstep

Derek Conway: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what his estimate is of the percentage of funding under the relevant contract which has been spent on administration by *(a)* prime contractors on the Pathways to Work programme and *(b)* disabled charity providers under Workstep. [261784]

Jonathan Shaw: 30 per cent. of the Pathways contract funding is paid in the form of a service fee. Information is not available about how much of this is used for administration costs, since we have given Pathways and Workstep providers freedom to design their own approaches to best meeting customers' needs.

BUSINESS, ENTERPRISE AND REGULATORY REFORM

Borrowing: Advisory Services

Mr. Hands: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how much was spent on establishing the Stop Loan Sharks *(a)* telephone line, *(b)* website and *(c)* text service; and what estimate he has made of the number of people who have used each service since establishment. [265591]

Mr. Thomas: The amount spent on establishing the Stop Loan Sharks is as follows:

(a) Telephone line—The telephone number cost £200 to install and £10 per month line rental to keep the number live. The easily recognisable number itself was free. The geographical set up was free.

(b) Website—Development of the website design cost approximately £6,000. The stop loan sharks email is free. There were no direct costs to BERR from Directgov to produce the website.

(c) Text service—The text service is £260 per year. The cost is approximately £100 per year for texts the teams send using this service. We get about five per week on average of which one or two are excellent leads.

In the first 24 hours of the launch on 3 March 2009, 125 calls from around the country and two texts were received. It is estimated that hundreds of people have called the hotline since its launch in the main for debt advice. The Stop Loan Sharks Directgov site has received 1,510 visitors since the launch.

China: Exhibitions

Mr. Clifton-Brown: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what funding his Department is making available to businesses wishing to be part of the British pavilion for the Shanghai World Expo 2010. [263504]

Mr. Thomas: BERR is not making money available specifically for companies to participate in the British Pavilion at Shanghai Expo. However as part of the regular support for business provided by UKTI, British companies will be able to access funds to participate in sectorally-specific missions or Market Visits organised by UKTI in the regions.

Debt Collection

Andrew Mackinlay: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform if he will take steps to ensure that debt collection procedures by banks, other financial institutions and their agents adhere to Office of Fair Trading guidelines on proportionality and on reasonableness; and if he will make a statement. [264235]

Mr. Thomas *[holding answer 23 March 2009]*: Under the Consumer Credit Act 1974, if a business wishes to be involved in consumer lending or related credit activities, including the collection of third party consumer debts, it must have a consumer credit licence. The Office of Fair Trading considers the fitness of businesses who apply for a licence and continues to monitor the fitness and conduct of those who are licensed.

The Office of Fair Trading debt collection guidance sets out the type of behaviour it considers to fall within the category of unfair business practices which will call into question fitness to be given or retain a consumer credit licence. The guidance applies to all consumer credit licence holders including lenders and debt collectors. It also makes clear that if consumer credit licence holders do business with third parties engaged in unfair business practices, then their own fitness will be called into question.

The Office of Fair Trading would consider any evidence it receives of consumer credit licence holders failing to adhere to its guidance and has a range of measures that can be applied against such businesses up to and including revocation of the licence. However, any action taken needs to be both evidence based and proportionate to the identified misconduct.

In April 2008 the Office of Fair Trading received new powers granted to it under the Consumer Credit Act 2006 and since then has issued warnings to 13 companies telling them to take steps to improve their debt collection practices. Most recently the Office of Fair Trading has taken formal action by imposing specific requirements on 1st Credit Limited to improve some of its debt collection processes and procedures.

Details of all businesses subject to requirements can be found on the consumer credit register at:

http://www2.crw.gov.uk/pr/Default.aspx

Debts: Enforcement

Mr. Hands: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform if he will bring forward proposals to include in the rules relating to debt enforcement a requirement for guidance on those rules to be provided to *(a)* debtors and *(b)* creditors. [265595]

Mr. Thomas: The Office of Fair Trading's debt collection guidance is available on its website at:

www.oft.gov.uk/advice_and_resources/resource_base/legal/cca/debt-collection

and is drawn to the attention of consumers who make complaints about the behaviour of consumer credit licensees pursuing debts. As part of its proactive compliance strategy, the Office of Fair Trading conducts a programme of engagements with agencies in the free advice sector in order to raise awareness of the guidance among advisers and consequently among consumers. I am also pleased to note that following my meeting last month with the debt collection trade association, the Credit Services Association, members will be required to flag up in their initial letters to debtors where to go to obtain free debt advice.

Publicity about enforcement action taken by the Office of Fair Trading further highlights to consumers and businesses the practices it considers to be unfair and therefore incompatible with licence fitness.

The debt collection guidance will be updated towards the end of 2009 and will clarify the responsibilities of lenders when pursuing or selling on debts. Forthcoming Office of Fair Trading guidance on second charge lending will also outline the principles to be followed when dealing with borrowers in arrears and will be consistent with the debt collection guidance.

Overseas Trade

Mike Penning: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what the volume of UK *(a)* imports from and *(b)* exports to (i) the European Union and (ii) the rest of the world were in (A) the latest year for which figures are available, (B) 2004, (C) 1999, (D) 1994 and (E) 1989. [266855]

Mr. Thomas *[holding answer 26 March 2009]*: The value of trade, including the Office for National Statistics first estimate for 2008, is shown in the following table:

£ billion

	UK imports of goods and services			UK exports of goods and services		
	EU27	Rest of world	Total	EU27	Rest of world	Total
2008	238	223	461	208	209	417
2004	188	148	336	158	146	303
1999	142	114	256	132	110	243
1994	—	—	186	—	—	183
1989	—	—	143	—	—	124

Note:
Consistent data for trade with the EU27 are not available for years before 1999.
Source:
ONS Balance of Payments

Overseas Trade: China

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what trade agreements between the UK and China *(a)* have been concluded in the last 12 months and *(b)* are expected to be concluded in the next 12 months. [264371]

Mr. Thomas: The European Commission conducts negotiations on trade agreements, under Article 133 of the EC treaty, in consultation with EU member states and on the basis of mandates agreed by the Council of Ministers which also decides whether to adopt such agreements. The EU has not signed any trade agreements with China in the last year and has not proposed any plans to do so in the next year, although negotiations for a partnership and cooperation agreement, which includes trade and investment aspects, are ongoing.

Property Development: Floods

Bob Spink: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what recent discussions the Secretary of State has had with the Association of British Insurers on insurance for *(a)* buildings already built and *(b)* future building in flood risk areas; and if he will make a statement. [264362]

Ian Pearson *[holding answer 23 March 2009]*: The Secretary of State has not had recent discussions with the Association of British Insurers on these issues.

Street Trading: Public Consultation

Dr. Iddon: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform when he plans to start his consultation on the findings of the street trading and pedlary in Great Britain report; and if he will make a statement. [267291]

Mr. Thomas: The Government will publish a consultation document this summer. Taking into account the findings of the report, we will be seeking views on possible changes to street trading and pedlar legislation, and on draft guidance on the current regime.

Syria: Overseas Trade

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform (1) what the monetary value of Syrian exports to the United Kingdom was in each of the last five years; [266946]

(2) what the monetary value of trade between Syria and the UK was in each of the last five years. [266951]

Mr. Thomas: Data on recorded trade in goods with Syria are shown in the following table:

£ million

	UK exports of goods to Syria	UK imports of goods from Syria
2004	89	52
2005	104	132
2006	82	273
2007	72	57
2008	93	117

Source:
HMRC Overseas Trade Statistics.

Estimates of trade in services are not available for the full five years. ONS data published in the UK Balance of Payments Pink Book 2008 were:

£ million

	UK exports of services to Syria	UK imports of services from Syria
2006	25	20
2007	32	14

Trade Unions: Legal Opinion

Mr. Maude: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Ruislip-Northwood of 27 January 2009, *Official Report*, column 580W, on trade unions: legal opinion, if he will place in the Library a copy of the preliminary analysis produced by the Office of Fair Trading on whether trade union members are consumers for the purposes of consumer protection rules. [258668]

Mr. Thomas: The Office of Fair Trading carried out a preliminary analysis in response to a complaint about the way in which certain trade unions collect contributions from members to political funds. The OFT decided not to pursue this issue for a number of reasons including a lack of evidence of widespread harm; the limited extent of the beneficial impact on consumers of any intervention; certain legal uncertainties which were finely balanced as to whether trade unions are 'suppliers' or 'sellers' and that members are 'consumers'; and the need to prioritize its activities to best meet its prioritization principles. OFT lawyers contributed to consideration of the matter, but it is not the OFT's practice to release internal legal advice, in line with rules relating to legal professional privilege.

UK Trade and Investment

Gregory Barker: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform who the members are of the UK Trade and Investment UK low-carbon sector advisory group. [265210]

Mr. Thomas: There is not a low-carbon sector advisory group. As low carbon has bearing on all sectors of the economy, it has relevance to all UKTI sector advisory groups. They were consulted during the development of the strategy, as part of a wider engagement with business and organisations. Stakeholders will continue to shape and inform the strategy through the sector advisory groups and in other ways, such as becoming partners to the strategy.

Gregory Barker: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform who the members are of the UK Trade and Investment UK low-carbon international marketing strategy board. [265211]

Mr. Thomas: A large number of businesses and organisations have contributed to the development of the strategy. Partnerships have been formed with a number of these stakeholders to help shape its further development. Governance arrangements for the strategy are still being considered and a marketing strategy board is one of a possible range of options.

Gregory Barker: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what the proposed timetable is for the publication of the UK Trade and Investment UK low-carbon international marketing strategy. [265212]

Mr. Thomas: On 25 March UKTI will set out the strategy's overarching proposition and next steps, including developing the strategy across sectors during 2009-10, at a partnership event. The event material will be available on the UKTI website (www.uktradeinvest.gov.uk) after the event.

WOMEN AND EQUALITY

Equal Pay: Private Sector

Julie Morgan: To ask the Minister for Women and Equality what plans she has to reduce the gender pay gap in the private sector. [265717]

Maria Eagle: A key to reducing the gender pay gap is pay transparency. The forthcoming Equality Bill will ensure that employers will not be able to rely on keeping their pay structure secret. We will ban secrecy clauses in employment contracts, so that women can identify unequal pay and seek redress.

The Bill will also enable employers, where women are under-represented in the workforce, to recruit a woman if she is an equally suitable candidate to a man, so that they can increase diversity in their workforce.

The Government are also committed to using the spending power of the public sector to deliver greater transparency on important equality issues like gender pay. £175 billion is spent by the public sector on private sector contracts every year. We are therefore looking at ways to use the purchasing power of public bodies to help achieve equality outcomes in the private sector. The Office of Government Commerce has published practical guidance for public procurers on what they can do to promote equality through the way they buy goods and services.

Through the Bill we will provide for an employment tribunal to be able to make a recommendation, where an employer has been found to have unlawfully discriminated, on how that employer can improve its practices in a way that applies not just to the successful complainant but to everyone in that workplace. This will help prevent similar types of discrimination happening again, so reducing the likelihood of future claims.

In the light of the Civil Justice Council's report and the specific research commissioned by the Government Equalities Office, we are considering whether there is a case for introducing representative actions for discrimination and equal pay cases. This will feed into wider work being taken forward by the Ministry of Justice looking at the case for representative actions across all jurisdictions of law. We will consult on any proposals for reform.

The Equality and Human Rights Commission is also conducting a formal inquiry into the financial services sector, as it has evidence suggesting that a high proportion of women working in some areas of financial services are paid less than their male counterparts, and suffer harassment at work. The financial services industry has the largest pay gap between men and women in the private sector at over 40 per cent. with far fewer women in senior roles than in other sectors.

Equality and Human Rights Commission: Official Hospitality

Mr. Paul Goodman: To ask the Minister for Women and Equality pursuant to the answer of 6 March 2009, *Official Report*, column 1843W, on hospitality: Equality and Human Rights Commission, if she will publish a breakdown by event of the £6,151 spent on hospitality in 2008-09. [267426]

Maria Eagle: Due to the way the Commission accounts are structured, it is not possible to break down the amount by individual events. The main components of the £6,151 figure are:

Hospitality[1]: £4,961.69
Staff expenses[2]: £1,189.56

[1] Refreshments for visitors at EHRC-hosted meetings.

[2] Refreshments for visitors at EHRC-hosted meetings paid for directly by staff.

Equality Bill 2008-09

Mrs. May: To ask the Minister for Women and Equality which organisations she has met to discuss the Equality Bill since 3 December 2008. [265142]

Maria Eagle: I, the Minister for Women and Equality, Vera Baird QC MP, Baroness Royall and officials have met with representatives from the third sector, business, unions and most stakeholder groups with an interest in the Equality Bill.

Females: Patients

Mr. Hollobone: To ask the Minister for Women and Equality if she will discuss with the Secretary of State for Health measures to ensure that women patients are not discriminated against in the provision of NHS services. [265713]

Maria Eagle: The Minister for Women and Equality and the Government Equalities Office are in regular contact with the Department of Health, and work closely together on issues affecting women in the provision of public services. The Department of Health also supports the NHS in meeting its legal duty to promote gender equality.

TREASURY

Banks: Finance

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer when the Financial Services Authority first informed his Department of potential problems arising from the over exposure of British banks to the house lending market. [259864]

Ian Pearson: As the memorandum of understanding between HM Treasury, the Bank of England and the FSA sets out, the tripartite authorities have regular meetings and discussions to work together towards the common objective of financial stability in the UK.

Gordon Banks: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the answer of 9 March 2009, *Official Report*, column 100W, on banks, what progress has been made in liaison between his Department, UK Financial Investments (UKFI) and the boards of banks of which UKFI is a major shareholder on pension arrangements for directors of these banks. [265729]

Ian Pearson *[holding answer 23 March 2009]:* The Treasury and UK Financial Investments Ltd. (UKFI) continue to liaise with the board of the banks of which they are major shareholders on remuneration policy. This includes work to ensure that remuneration policies are in line with the Government's principles on remuneration, including no rewards for failure. Directors' remuneration arrangements—including pensions arrangements as appropriate—are disclosed in the banks' annual report and accounts.

Simon Hughes: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what recent assessment his Department has made of investments in *(a)* oil sands and shale oil, *(b)* conventional oil projects, *(c)* gas projects and *(d)* coal-fired power stations by those UK financial institutions that are now majority owned by the Government. [265833]

Ian Pearson *[holding answer 23 March 2009]:* The Government's investments are managed on a commercial basis by UK Financial Investments Ltd. (UKFI), a company which is wholly owned by the Government. Its overarching objectives are to protect and create value for the taxpayer as a shareholder, with due regard to financial stability and acting in a way that promotes competition.

Banks: Regulation

John Mann: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what recent discussions he has had with *(a)* Lloyds TSB and *(b)* RBS on (i) the volume of their assets held in each (A) UK dependent territory, (B) UK overseas territory and (iii) Crown dependency; and what information his Department holds on the names of the subsidiaries of each bank registered in each (1) UK dependent territory, (2) UK overseas territory and (3) Crown dependency. [261834]

Ian Pearson: Information on subsidiaries is reported by banks in their annual financial statements under international reporting standards.

Banks: Tax Avoidance

Colin Burgon: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many of the financial institutions and their subsidiary companies which are *(a)* wholly and *(b)* partly in public ownership have reported tax avoidance schemes to HM Revenue and Customs in each of the last three years; how many schemes each such institution has reported; what discussions he has had on the matter with (i) UK Financial Investments and (ii) the institutions concerned; and if he will make a statement. [264336]

Ian Pearson *[holding answer 18 March 2009]:* HM Revenue and Customs does not release information about the number of disclosures by individual companies for reasons of confidentiality.

Treasury Ministers and officials have meetings with a wide variety of organisations in the public and private sectors as part of the process of policy development and delivery. As was the case with previous Administrations, it is not the Government's practice to provide details of all such meetings.

Business: Government Assistance

Mr. Amess: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer which initiatives introduced by his Department since November 2008 to assist *(a)* small and medium-sized enterprises and *(b)* individuals (i) have been implemented and (ii) remain to be implemented; on what date each of those implemented commenced; and if he will make a statement. [266967]

Mr. Timms: In the 2008 pre-Budget report HM Treasury introduced a number of measures to assist small and medium-sized enterprises and individuals. These have either been implemented or will come into effect as planned in April 2009.

Business: Standards

Justine Greening: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will direct the Financial Services Authority to publish a list of firms that did not meet its December 2008 deadline for the treating customers fairly scheme. [266579]

Ian Pearson: The matter raised in this question is the responsibility of the Financial Services Authority, whose day-to-day operations are independent from Government control and influence. I have asked the FSA to write to the hon. Member.

Child Trust Fund: EU Nationals

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what conditions of eligibility for the child trust fund apply to migrant workers from EU accession states. [262723]

Ian Pearson: Children of migrant workers from EU accession states are eligible for a child trust fund account if:

they were born on or after 1 September 2002;

have been or are resident in the UK on or after 6 April 2005, while not being subject to immigration controls; and

have been or are in a child benefit award on or after 6 April 2005, the date the child trust fund scheme was launched.

Departmental Art Works

Mr. Vara: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer which works of art from the Government art collection each Minister in his Department has selected for display in a private office. [259430]

Angela Eagle: The information requested has been deposited in the Library of the House.

Departmental Buildings

Grant Shapps: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much was spent by *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agencies on (i) furniture and (ii) renovation and decoration for departmental buildings in each of the last five years. [265407]

Angela Eagle: Details of spending on furniture and fittings for the Treasury Group is shown in the tangible fixed assets note to the annual resource accounts. Copies of the resource accounts are available from

http://www/.hm-treasury.gov.uk/
resource_accounting_and_budgeting_about_us.htm.

For information on the renovation and decoration of departmental buildings, I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave on 20 January 2009, *Official Report*, column 1292W, to the hon. Member for Ilford, North (Mr. Scott).

Departmental Manpower

Greg Clark: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many members of the Prime Minister's *(a)* Strategy Unit and *(b)* Delivery Unit have a desk allocated in each other Government department. [266629]

Yvette Cooper: PMDU has one desk allocated for the Head of Unit in Number 10 and none anywhere else.

PMSU (which is part of the Cabinet Office) has three people using desks at DCSF (full time) and two people using desks part time at Home Office (one person four days per week and another 2.5 days per week). PMSU has no desks allocated to them anywhere else.

Departmental Property

Grant Shapps: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what properties *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agencies have sold in each of the last five years; and how many have been sold for housing developments. [265119]

Angela Eagle: For details of properties disposed of by HM Treasury prior to 2007-08, I refer to the answer given to the hon. Member by my right hon. Friend the former Financial Secretary (John Healey) on 5 June 2007, *Official Report*, column 465W. The Treasury disposed of one property in 2007-08. None of the Treasury disposals were for housing developments. Treasury agencies disposed of one property in 2005-06, in Stanmore, Middlesex, which was for a housing development.

EU Budget

Mr. Gray: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the UK's net contribution to the EU budget has been in each year since 1994. [266742]

Ian Pearson: Details of the United Kingdom's net contribution to the EC budget can be found in HM Treasury's annual European Community Finances White Paper. Table 3, page 51 of the 2008 White Paper (Cm 7462) of 10 September 2008, which is available in the House Library and also on the following website:

http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk./documents/international_
issues/eu_information/int_eu_statefraud.cfm

contains these data in respect of years 2002 to 2007, with an estimate for 2008. Data for earlier years can be found in the equivalent table of previous editions of the White Paper.

Members: Correspondence

Steve Webb: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer when he plans to reply to the letter from the hon. Member for Northavon of 3 December 2008 on behalf of Mr. P Deegan of Bradley Stoke, on annuities. [267257]

Ian Pearson: I have replied to the hon. Member.

Steve Webb: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer when he plans to reply to the letter from the hon. Member for Northavon of 8 December 2008 on behalf of Mrs. J Gray of Wick, on winter fuel allowance for disabled children. [267259]

Mr. Timms: There was no trace of receipt of the letter of 8 December. A copy has been requested and received and a reply should be sent shortly.

Andrew Selous: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer when he plans to reply to the letter of 1 December 2008 from the hon. Member for South West Bedfordshire regarding his constituent, Mr. Brumwell. [267707]

Ian Pearson: A reply has been sent to the hon. Member.

Private Finance Initiative

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the written ministerial statement of 3 March 2009, *Official Report*, columns 47-48WS, on Government infrastructure investment, what rate of return on capital he is prepared to permit in private finance initiative projects supported by 100 per cent. senior debt lending by his Department. [263541]

Yvette Cooper: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given on 26 March 2009, *Official Report*, column 632W.

Public Expenditure

Mr. Hague: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the total amount of additional funds transferred to the Foreign and Commonwealth Office under the Overseas Price Mechanism was in each financial year since 1997. [266925]

Yvette Cooper: The relevant changes to the Foreign and Commonwealth Office's RDEL were set out in successive Supplementary Estimates.

Tax Allowances: Redundancy Pay

Mr. Walker: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will increase the £30,000 tax free limit for redundancy payments. [267852]

Mr. Timms: As with all taxes, the threshold at which tax is paid on redundancy payments is kept under review.

TNT: Taxation

Mr. Weir: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what representations the Government received from TNT in respect of the UK tax regime between 1997 and 2003. [267527]

Mr. Timms: Treasury Ministers and officials receive representations from a wide variety of organisations in the public and private sectors as part of the process of policy development and delivery. As was the case with previous Administrations, it is not the Government's practice to provide details of all such representations.

OLYMPICS

Olympic Games 2012: Gun Sports

Mr. Malins: To ask the Minister for the Olympics if she will place in the Library the further report on the Olympic shooting venue commissioned by the Olympic Delivery Authority (ODA) and the London Organising Committee of the Olympic Games for submission to the International Olympic Committee; what estimate the ODA have made of the merits of holding the Olympic shooting events at *(a)* Bisley, *(b)* Barking, *(c)* Woolwich and *(d)* elsewhere; and what the cost to the public purse of the report was. [267704]

Tessa Jowell: The Olympic Delivery Authority (ODA) undertook detailed feasibility work on the location of the London 2012 shooting venue and presented their findings to the Olympic Board at its meeting on 19 March.

For continuing reasons of commercial sensitivity and so as not to prejudice the ODA's and the London Organising Committee of the Olympic and Paralympic Games' discussions and negotiations on contracts they have not awarded for temporary venues, I am unable to place a copy of the ODA's detailed feasibility work in the Library of the House at this time.

The cost of the feasibility work was undertaken by ODA staff as part of their core business activity.

CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

Departmental Energy

Greg Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what steps have been taken by *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agency to improve the thermal efficiency of their buildings in the last 12 months. [266754]

Barbara Follett: No steps have been taken by the Department in the last 12 months. However during the refurbishment of its Cockspur street building in 2007-08 the Department took the opportunity to upgrade its lighting facilities, to install new boilers, chillers, air handling and fan coil units.

When carrying out building refurbishments over the past 12 months, The Royal Parks has taken the opportunity to install or upgrade secondary glazing, install modern and more efficient heating systems and boilers, introduce thermostatic controls to radiators, and, where possible, lay floor insulation.

There has been one new build in the Royal Parks in the past twelve months, which was designed in accordance with the Building Regulations Part L.

Greg Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what recent progress his Department has made towards the target of increasing its energy efficiency per square metre of its Estate by 15 per cent. by 2010, relative to 1999-2000 levels; and if he will make a statement. [266884]

Barbara Follett: The Department has implemented a series of measures to ensure progress against the target of increasing its energy efficiency. We have already met and exceeded the target by 12 per cent.

The target is managed and tracked through our ISO14001 accredited Environmental Management System.

Departmental Public Appointments

Julia Goldsworthy: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport which former *(a)* hon. Members who left Parliament since 1997 and *(b)* Members of the House of Lords from each party have been appointed to positions on public bodies within his Department's responsibility; and who made each appointment. [266792]

Andy Burnham *[holding answer 26 March 2009]*: Information on board membership appears in the annual report and accounts published by individual public bodies.

Departmental Public Expenditure

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much capital spending is planned to be brought forward by his Department to *(a)* 2008-09 and *(b)* 2009-10. [266296]

Andy Burnham: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave to the hon. Member for Yeovil (Mr. Laws) on 27 January 2009, *Official Report*, column 356W.

Digital Broadcasting

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what steps his Department is taking to help those on low incomes update television sets in preparation for the digital switchover. [267025]

Andy Burnham: The Government and the BBC have set up a Digital Switchover Help Scheme which targets help for those groups likely to have the greatest need. Research has indicated that cost is not the main barrier to take-up of digital TV and that older pensioners and disabled people may have the most difficulty switching.

The Help Scheme covers households where one person is aged 75 or over, or has a severe disability, or is registered blind or partially sighted and anyone who is normally resident in a care home. Help is free within these groups for those on pension credit, income support or income-based jobseeker's allowance.

The scheme provides easy-to-use equipment that suits a person's needs. It also provides help with installing the equipment, including where necessary a new dish or aerial, and an easy-to-understand demonstration of how everything works. The scheme also ensures that there will be someone that people can call for help while they are getting used to digital television.

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what steps his Department is taking to inform the public about the digital switchover. [267034]

Andy Burnham: Digital UK is responsible for informing the public about switchover and for providing general information about the Switchover Help Scheme. Key elements of Digital UK's communications campaign include information leaflets sent to every home, advertising, roadshows and on-screen captions broadcast to analogue homes during the six months before a switchover.

The Help Scheme is run by the BBC, under an agreement with the Government, to help older and disabled people make the change to digital TV. Every eligible person will be offered practical help to convert one of their TV sets to digital in the run-up to switchover in each region.

Digital UK is also working with local charities to provide information, advice and support to those who are not eligible for the Help Scheme but may need some extra help in managing the switchover process. Digital UK has contracted with Digital Outreach Ltd. to deliver this service in the first four TV regions to switch—Border, West Country, Wales and Granada.

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what recent estimate he has made of the number of households fully prepared for the digital switchover. [267035]

Andy Burnham: The Ofcom/Digital UK switchover tracker survey for the fourth quarter of 2008 estimated that 63 per cent. of all UK households had switched all of their televisions to digital.

Film and Video Games

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many of his Department's officials work on policy to assist the *(a)* film and *(b)* video games development industry. [267564]

Barbara Follett: The current full-time equivalent (FTE) number of officials working on policy to assist the film industry is 3.7.

The current full-time equivalent (FTE) number of officials working on policy to assist the video games industry is 1.5.

Hague Convention

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what plans there are for legislation to introduce the provisions of the Hague Convention; and if he will make a statement. [267306]

Barbara Follett: The Government intend to introduce the Cultural Property (Armed Conflicts) Bill, which will enable the UK to ratify the Hague Convention, as soon as parliamentary time allows.

Historic Buildings

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many publicly owned buildings are included on English Heritage's Heritage at Risk register. [267370]

Barbara Follett *[holding answer 27 March 2009]:* 200 publicly-owned grade I and grade II* listed buildings and structural scheduled monuments nationally, and a further 95 grade II listed buildings in London, were included on their 2008 Heritage at Risk Register.

Legislation

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport which provisions of primary legislation for which his Department is responsible enacted in each of the last 10 years have yet to be brought into force. [266907]

Barbara Follett: All of the Acts introduced by the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport in the last 10 years have been brought into force. However not all of the enactments contained in those Acts have been brought into force. These are as follows:

The Communications Act 2003—sections 272 to 274 ("must offer" obligations affecting public service television) and sections 299 to 300 (sporting and other events of national interest).

The Licensing Act 2003—two consequential amendments in Schedule 6—paragraphs 98 and 99(c), which by reason of the drafting do not achieve the intended effect.

The Horserace Betting and Olympic Lottery Act 2004—various enactments are not in force mainly relating to the sale of the Tote and the Horserace Betting Levy system.

The Gambling Act 2005—the vast majority has been brought into force except for sections 7(5)(a), 159 to 165,175(2) to (8), 204 and Schedule 9 in so far as they relate to premises licences for regional casinos.

The National Lottery Act 2006—section 5 which concerns annual fees and some provisions relating to the Channel Islands and Schedule 1 which sets out the reserve licensing structure to allow the National Lottery Commission to issue more then one licence to operate and promote the lotteries forming part of the National Lottery.

The London Olympic Games and Paralympic Games Act 2006—sections 13 to 16 which relate to the regulation of transport during the Games and section 39(1) and paragraph 13 of Schedule 3 which amend legislation repealed since the passing of the Act.

Museums

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what estimate he has made of the number of people who have visited a publicly funded museum in the last 12 months. [267031]

Barbara Follett: The Department for Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS) collects visitor figures from the museums and galleries that it sponsors. While the figures for the full year 2008-09 are not yet available, DCMS estimates that 40 million visits will have been made to DCMS-funded museums and galleries by the end of the 2008-09 financial year.

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many museums he has visited in an official capacity in the last 12 months. [267032]

Andy Burnham: In the last 12 months I have visited 12 museums in an official capacity.

Television

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what estimate he has made of the number of households unable to receive Channel Five; and what steps his Department is taking to increase coverage. [267026]

Andy Burnham: Approximately 80 per cent. of the UK population can currently receive analogue terrestrial Channel Five services. After digital switchover, it is expected that 98.5 per cent. of UK households will be able to receive Channel Five.

Television: Standards

Mr. Flello: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport if he will make an assessment of levels of use of blasphemous language in television programmes. [266918]

Andy Burnham: Responsibility for what is broadcast on television and radio rests with the broadcasters and the organisations which regulate broadcasting—the Office of Communications (Ofcom), the BBC Trust and the Welsh Fourth Channel Authority (S4C)—within the overall framework set by the Communications Act 2003 and the BBC Charter and Agreement.

In relation to broadcasting, Parliament has charged Ofcom with maintaining standards, notably to protect children and to protect the general public from harmful and offensive material. The Ofcom Broadcasting Code therefore sets out the rules with which broadcasters must comply. Ofcom also produce guidance notes to assist broadcasters interpret and apply the Broadcasting Code. In addition, the BBC's editorial guidelines provide clear advice on the standards expected of all BBC content on television and radio. The S4C Compliance Guidelines also provide guidance on the standards expected of all content broadcast on S4C.

Within this framework, it is the broadcasters' job to make judgments about what individual programmes should contain and the time at which they are broadcast. It is a long-standing principle that the Government do not interfere in programme matters, either on arrangements for scheduling or on content.

Video Games: Finance

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much financial assistance the Government has provided to the video games industry since 1997. [267567]

Barbara Follett: The information requested could be provided only at disproportionate cost. We do not have the specific figures broken down by sector or year.

However, the video games industry has access to Government support in a number of different ways. Examples include research and development tax credits and support from the Technology Strategy Board, which funded the Creative Industries Technology and Innovation Network. Direct support from UK Trade and Investment is also available, including that for trade missions.

Additional support is also available from the regional development agencies and the regional screen agencies, this takes the form of financial assistance to individual games companies, funding of sector-specific networks, funding of sector support and incubation initiatives through universities and take-up of business support activities by computer games companies.

ENERGY AND CLIMATE CHANGE

Biofuels: Renewables Obligation

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change under what circumstances biogas production is eligible for renewables obligation certificates. [267530]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: Under the reforms to the renewables obligation that will come into effect on 1 April, biogas produced through anaerobic digestion will receive two renewables obligation certificates (ROCs)/MWh. Sewage gas will receive 0.5 ROCs/MWh, and landfill gas will receive 0.25 ROCs/MWh.

In addition, we are currently considering the inclusion of biogas under the renewable heat incentive, which we are aiming to introduce in April 2011.

Carbon Trust

Greg Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what his role in the appointments of members of the board of *(a)* the Carbon Trust and *(b)* the Energy Saving Trust is. [266771]

Joan Ruddock: The Energy Saving Trust is a private company. Members of the board are appointed in line with its Articles of Association. The Government have no role in appointing members to the board.

The Carbon Trust is a private company. Under its articles of association, the Secretaries of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, and for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform, both appoint one member to the Carbon Trust board. Following the creation of DECC in October 2008, DECC assumed responsibility for sponsorship of the Carbon Trust from DEFRA. We are in discussions with Carbon Trust to consider amendments to the current arrangements for board membership which are necessitated by the creation of DECC.

Other members of the board are appointed in line with Carbon Trust's articles of association, which are publicly available at the Companies Registry.

Carbon Trust and Energy Saving Trust

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how much funding from the public purse was provided to the *(a)* Carbon Trust and *(b)* Energy Saving Trust in each of the last five years. [255860]

Joan Ruddock: Carbon Trust funding from the public purse, from 2003-04 to 2007-08, was as follows:

	£
2003-04	59,770,000
2004-05	63,331,000
2005-06	71,838,000
2006-07	96,247,000
2007-08	[1]119,324,000

[1] Includes £14,001,000 of accrued income—i.e. income payable to the Carbon Trust under arrangements for 2007-08, but disbursed in 2008-09 when funds were required.

This includes funding from BERR, DEFRA, and the Devolved Administrations.

Energy Saving Trust funding from the public purse, from 2003-04 to 2007-08, was as follows:

As published in the Energy Saving Trust Limited's audited accounts

£000

	Funding from public purse for the year ended 31 March				
	2008	*2007*	*2006*	*2005*	*2004*
DEFRA	29,800	43,227	33,710	34,449	30,533
DfT	8,526	7,811	9,902	22,655	30,575
BERR/Dti	6,466	14,469	8,481	6,940	3,253
Scottish Government	10,149	8,358	6,082	7,676	6,328
Total	54,941	73,865	58,175	71,720	70,689

Carbon Trust: Public Relations

Greg Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change with which public affairs companies *(a)* the Carbon Trust and *(b)* the Energy Saving Trust entered into contracts in 2008. [266681]

Joan Ruddock: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given by my hon. Friend, the Minister of State for the Department of Energy and Climate Change on 25 March 2009, *Official Report*, column 497W.

Climate Change

Mr. Greg Knight: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change if he will re-assess his estimate of the rate of global warming to take account of data demonstrating that the 2008-09 winter was the coldest in the UK for almost 20 years. [267253]

Joan Ruddock: The rate of global warming is reflected in the long-term trend in global average temperature. Observations collated at the Met Office Hadley Centre and the university of East Anglia Climate Research Unit indicate that this rate has been approximately 0.13° C per decade over the past 50 years. Natural weather variability will always mean that, despite the presence of an underlying warming trend, some colder than average winters will occur in the UK. These events are fully consistent with our understanding of climate change and are included in the underlying dataset that is used to calculate the rate of global warming at the end of each calendar year. However, they do not have a significant effect on the long-term trend in global average temperature and thus do not necessitate a change in our estimate of the rate of global warming. Furthermore, the scientific evidence indicates that global average temperatures will continue to rise in the long-term if greenhouse gas emissions continue.

Climate Change Summit

Mr. Greg Knight: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how many staff of his Department attended the Climate Change Summit in Copenhagen in 2009. [265919]

Joan Ruddock *[holding answer 24 March 2009]:* Two senior scientists from the Department attended the International Congress on "Climate Change: Global Risks, Challenges and Decisions" held in Copenhagen.

Mr. Greg Knight: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how many staff of his Department attended the International Climate Change Conference in New York in 2009. [265920]

Joan Ruddock *[holding answer 24 March 2009]:* No staff from the Department of Energy and Climate Change attended the 2009 international conference on climate change in New York, organised by the Heartland Institute. This event was predominantly aimed at environmental sceptics.

It ran almost concurrently with the international scientific conference on climate change, supported by the Government of Denmark, in Copenhagen. This mainstream event attracted some 2,000 scientists and experts, including many leaders in their fields, and therefore took priority for our officials.

Coal

Greg Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what estimate he has made of the tonnage of coal burnt in the UK in each year since 1990. [266716]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The tonnage of coal consumed in the UK between 1990 and 2007 is given in the table. Figures for 2008 will be published on 30 July 2009.

Coal Consumption in the UK, 1990-2007

	Coal consumption (thousand tonnes)
1990	108,256
1991	107,513
1992	100,580
1993	86,757
1994	81,767
1995	76,942
1996	71,400
1997	63,080
1998	63,152
1999	55,724
2000	59,931
2001	63,850
2002	58,554
2003	63,023
2004	60,450
2005	61,832
2006	67,388
2007	62,886

Source:
Digest of UK Energy Statistics 2008 (Internet version). Chapter 2: Solid fuel and derived gases, Long Term Trends.

Committee on Radioactive Waste Management

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what information his Department holds on *(a)* levels of participation in stakeholder meetings held by the Committee on Radioactive Waste Management and *(b)* the reimbursement of travel costs for participants in such meetings; and if he will take steps to increase public access to such meetings. [263816]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The independent Committee on Radioactive Waste Management (CoRWM) provides independent scrutiny of the Government's and the Nuclear Decommissioning Authority's proposals, plans and programmes to deliver geological disposal, together with robust interim storage, as the long-term option for the UK's higher activity radioactive waste.

CoRWM are well known for their positive approach to public and stakeholder engagement and information on participation at specific stakeholder events is placed on their website (www.corwm.org.uk) within published meeting reports.

It is CoRWM practice to reimburse reasonable travel, subsistence or accommodation costs. The committee also carefully consider the timing and location of events in order to help stakeholders to participate more easily.

Community Energy Saving Programme

Greg Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change pursuant to the answer of 26 February 2009, *Official Report*, column 918W, on Community Energy Saving Programme, when he expects to publish the final order for the Community Energy Saving Programme; and when he expects this order to come into force. [266829]

Joan Ruddock: A draft statutory instrument is now available on the DECC website. Consultation on the CESP proposals closes on 8 May, and the Government will then need to consider the responses received carefully. We hope to lay the final statutory instrument before Parliament this summer, with a view to the scheme coming into force later in 2009.

Departmental Public Expenditure

Greg Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what his Department's budget is for *(a)* 2009-10 and *(b)* 2010-11. [266625]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The total departmental expenditure limit budget for the Department of Energy and Climate Change for *(a)* 2009-10 is £2,859 million and for *(b)* 2010-11 is £2,910 million. The annually managed expenditure Budget is set one year at a time via the main estimate laid before Parliament early in the new fiscal year.

Departmental Responsibilities

Greg Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change whether his Department has a central strategy team. [266600]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: Yes.

Departmental Translation Services

Mr. Frank Field: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how many language translators are employed in *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its non-ministerial departments; and what the cost of translating services provided by such people was in the latest period for which information is available. [257149]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: Responsibility for employing language translators is delegated to the Department's different business units. As such there is no central record of language translators and the Department would incur a disproportionate cost if it were to compile such a record.

Electricité de France

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what information he has received on the operations of European Union anti-trust inspectors on the offices of Electricité de France (EDF) in Brussels on 11 March, in respect of EDF's proposals to build nuclear power plants in the UK. [266136]

Mr. Thomas: I have been asked to reply.

Ministers do not receive information on unannounced inspections by the European Commission, Directorate-General Competition, or, for that matter, by national competition authorities. The broad details of inspections are confirmed in official statements by the independent competition authority concerned. In this particular case we know from the European Commission's statement of 11 March 2009 that:

> 'on 10 March Commission officials carried out unannounced inspections at the premises of the electricity company EDF in France in respect of prices on the French wholesale electricity market'.

Electricity Generation

Greg Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what recent estimate he has made of the UK's electricity supply capacity margin; and if he will make a statement. [266724]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The UK's electricity supply capacity margin can be calculated as the difference between the UK's electricity supply capacity available to the transmission network and the UK's peak demand. 2007 is the latest year for which data are available. 2008 data will be available on 30 July 2009. In 2007, the UK's capacity available to the transmission network was 75,190 MW, while the peak demand met was 61,527 MW. This indicates a margin of 13,663 MW, approximately 22.2 per cent. of demand.

Energy: Advisory Services

Greg Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change pursuant to the answer of 9 March 2009, *Official Report*, column 56W, on energy: advisory services, what the address of each energy saving trust advice centre is. [266709]

Joan Ruddock: The address details of the 16 Energy Saving Trust regional advice centres that are funded by my Department are listed as follows:

	Address
London Energy Saving Trust advice centre	CEN, 8th Floor, Ambassador House, Brigstock Road, Thornton Heath, Surrey CR7 7JG
East Midlands Energy Saving Trust advice centre	Hestia, 1st Floor Granby House, 44 Friar Lane, Nottingham NG1 6DQ
Wales Energy Saving Trust advice centre	Energy Saving Trust, 1 Caspian Point, Caspian Way, Cardiff Bay, South Wales CF10 4DQ
Northern Ireland Energy Saving Trust advice centre	Bryson House,1-11 May Street, Belfast BT1 4NA
North East Energy Saving Trust advice centre	TADEA, 18B Manor Way, Belasis Hall Technology Park, Billingham TS23 4HN
Merseyside and Cheshire Energy Saving Trust advice centre	Energy Projects Plus, The Sandon Building, Falkland Road, Wallasey, Wirral CH44 8ER
Greater Manchester Energy Saving Trust advice centre	Manchester City Council, 4th Floor, Basil House, 105-107 Portland Street, Manchester M1 6DF
Cumbria and Lancashire Energy Saving Trust advice centre	TADEA, 12C Alanbrooke Road, Rosehill, Carlisle CA1 2UT
North Yorks and Humber Energy Saving Trust advice centre	Ryedale Energy Conservation Group Ltd., 20 George Hudson Street, York YO1 6WR
South and West Yorks Energy Saving Trust advice centre	Kirklees Energy Services, 12 Byram Buildings, Station Street, Huddersfield, West Yorkshire HD1 1LS
Thames Valley and Solent advice centre	USEA, National Energy Centre, Davy Avenue, Knowlhill, Milton Keynes, Buckinghamshire MK5 8NG
Kent, Surrey and Sussex Energy Saving Trust advice centre	CEN, 3rd Floor, International House, Dover Place, Ashford, Kent TN23 1HU
West Midlands Energy Saving Trust advice centre	Hestia, European Business Park, Taylors Lane, Oldbury, West Midlands B69 2BN
East of England Energy Saving Trust advice centre 1	Climate Energy, Ecotech Centre, Turbine Way, Swaffham, Norfolk PE37 7HT
East of England Energy Saving Trust advice centre 2	Climate Energy, Countryside House, Freebournes Road, Witham, Essex CM8 3UN
South and West Yorks Energy Saving Trust advice centre (Devon, Swindon, Cornwall and Bristol, and Somerset hubs)	Energy Advice South West Ltd., c/o South Crofty House, Tolvaddon Energy Park, Camborne, Cornwall TR14 0HX

Environmental Transformation Fund

Greg Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change pursuant to the answer of 12 February 2009, *Official Report*, column 2161W, on Environmental Transformation Fund, by what date he expects to sign the trust fund arrangement with the World Bank. [267083]

Joan Ruddock: This arrangement, known officially as the "Contribution Arrangement" between the World Bank (the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development) and the United Kingdom acting through the Department for International Development and my Department was signed on 26 March.

Forest Carbon Partnership Facility

Martin Horwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change who represents the Government on the governing body of the Forest Carbon Partnership Facility. [266725]

Joan Ruddock: Both the Department for Energy and Climate Change (DECC) and the Department for International Development (DFID) jointly represent the UK at meetings of the Participant's Committee of the Forest Carbon Partnership Facility.

Forestry

Martin Horwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what steps he plans to take to ensure that an international agreement on reduced emissions from deforestation and degradation does not result in countries which have rainforest receiving funding for the replacement of natural forests with plantations. [266801]

Joan Ruddock *[holding answer 26 March 2009]*: The Bali Action Plan recognised the relevant provisions of the convention on biological diversity (CBD) as well as other international agreements to ensure that the maximum environmental benefits of paying for the carbon mitigation services of forests are achieved. The UK has been leading the way in looking at this. Dr. Bob Watson, DEFRA Chief Scientist, chaired a meeting of experts on biodiversity and climate change to provide biodiversity-relevant information to the UNFCCC. The first part of this work was already presented to the UNFCCC in Poznan, and the next meeting will be held in April.

Primary forests are generally more carbon dense, biologically diverse and resilient than other forest ecosystems. The December EU Council Conclusions supported the use of gross deforestation rates. This would include only primary forest in a country's forest reference level and so countries would not be compensated for replacing natural forests with plantations.

Martin Horwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what funding his Department has provided to assist developing countries to participate in international negotiations associated with forestry and climate change. [266802]

Joan Ruddock *[holding answer 26 March 2009]*: The UK provided £40,000 to support developing countries' attendance at a meeting of the Coalition of Rainforest Nations[1] on developing a shared position on Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Degradation (REDD) ahead of the twelfth United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) Conference of the parties meeting in Nairobi in 2006. An additional £60,000 was provided by the UK to support developing countries' participation in a REDD international negotiators workshop in Indonesia in October 2007. These meetings were essential to make progress on the issue ahead of the thirteenth UNFCCC Conference of the Parties meeting in Bali in December 2007. The UK is supporting central African countries' consideration of their approach on forests and climate change in preparation for the climate change talks in Copenhagen in December this year.

[1] Countries include: Bangladesh, Belize, Bolivia, Central African Republic, Cameroon, Congo, Colombia, Costa Rica, DR Congo, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Equatorial Guinea, El Salvador, Fiji, Gabon, Ghana, Guatemala, Guyana, Honduras, Indonesia, Kenya, Lesotho, Liberia, Madagascar, Malaysia, Nicaragua, Nigeria, Pakistan, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Samoa, Sierra Leone, Solomon Islands, Suriname, Thailand, Uruguay, Uganda, Vanuatu and Vietnam.

Forests: Carbon Emissions

Simon Hughes: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what funding for forest protection as a measure of reducing levels of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere he has allocated to *(a)* plantations, *(b)* agriculture and *(c)* reforestation in each of the next three years. [265895]

Joan Ruddock: No specific funds are allocated by my Department towards domestic forestry protection. Funding for domestic forestry is the responsibility of the Forestry Commission and the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs.

Internationally, funds for carbon sequestration are not split into the three categories mentioned in the question, but significant funding is given to forestry. At the climate change negotiations in Poznan last December the UK announced up to £100 million to support such work. This is in addition to a £15 million contribution to the World Bank forest carbon partnership facility which assists developing countries in working out how they can participate in and benefit from evolving incentive mechanisms to avoid deforestation. The UK has also committed £60 million to help reduce deforestation and poverty in the Congo Basin.

Framework Convention on Climate Change Committee

Mr. Greg Knight: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how many of his Department's staff attended the recent press briefing in New York by Mr. Yvo de Boer, Executive Secretary of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change on the climate change conference in Copenhagen. [267499]

Joan Ruddock: No staff from the Department of Energy and Climate Change attended the recent press briefing in New York by Yvo de Boer on the international climate change conference in Copenhagen.

Fuel Poverty

Mr. Jenkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how many households with at least one person with a long-term illness or disability were estimated to be in fuel poverty at the latest date for which information is available. [264532]

Joan Ruddock: The most recently available fuel poverty statistics relate to 2006. These show that in England, there were around 915,000 fuel poor households that contained somebody with a long-term sickness or disability.

Heating

Dr. Whitehead: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what plans he has to include the replacement of circulation pumps in proposals to enhance home energy efficiency. [263612]

Joan Ruddock: A forthcoming implementing measure on circulators under the Ecodesign for Energy using Products (EuP) Framework Directive proposes stringent minimum efficiency standards for circulators from 2013. Our initial analysis of the Commission proposals suggests that such a measure would lead to significant energy savings. The measure is due to be voted on at a meeting of the Regulatory Committee on 27 March.

Natural Gas

Greg Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what the average daily demand for gas was in the last year for which figures are available; and what the average daily demand for gas was in *(a)* winter and *(b)* summer months of that year. [266730]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: Average daily demand can be calculated as total annual demand divided by the number of days in the year. The latest year for which figures are available is 2007.Data for 2008 will be available on 30 July 2009. Total natural gas demand in 2007 was 1,056,846 GWh. The average daily demand for natural gas in 2007 was, therefore, 2,895 GWh.

Total demand in the two winter quarters of 2007 was 652,906, giving an average daily demand of 3,587 GWh. Total demand in the two summer quarters of 2007 was 403,940 GWh, giving an average daily demand of 2,207 GWh.

Parliament: Energy Conservation

Dr. Gibson: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change if he will hold discussions with the authorities of *(a)* the House of Commons and *(b)* the House of Lords on measures to reduce energy loss from the Parliamentary estate. [illegible]

Joan Ruddock: The Carbon Trust, which is sponsored and funded by the Department of Energy and Climate Change, is working with parliamentary estates staff in seeking to improve the energy efficiency of the parliamentary estate. Following the development of a carbon management plan for Portcullis House in March 2008, the Trust has been considering next steps with parliamentary estates on how to improve the energy efficiency of the Palace of Westminster.

In addition, the Office of Government Commerce's Centre of Expertise in Sustainable Procurement (CESP) holds bi-monthly practitioner forums to support central Government staff working to improve the sustainability of the Government estate, its operations and procurement. CESP has recently engaged with the parliamentary estates team, providing support and guidance on sustainability targets. CESP has extended an invitation to the parliamentary estates team to attend future practitioner events.

Public Bodies

Greg Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change which public bodies have received funding from his Department since its establishment; and how much each *(a)* has received in 2008-09 and *(b)* has been allocated for each year from 2009-10 to 2013-14. [illegible]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The public bodies with grant-in-aid funding in 2008-09 are tabled as follows:

	£ million
Nuclear Decommissioning Authority	1,486
Coal Authority	37.3
Civil Nuclear Policy Authority	1
Committee on Climate Change	3.7

Grant-in-aid funding for those public bodies for 2009-10 to 2013-14 will be set by the annual Parliamentary Main Estimate.

Renewable Energy: Waste

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change if he will make an estimate of the potential contribution of gas produced by community-based anaerobic digesters to the supply of domestic energy. [266260]

Joan Ruddock: The Government have not carried out an analysis based on potential by size of anaerobic digestion plant but rather on technical potential available by feedstock. This initial analysis, published in the Government's Consultation on a Renewable Energy Strategy, suggests that the anaerobic digestion of food waste, livestock slurries, sewage sludge and energy crops to produce biogas could, technically, contribute approximately 10-20 TWh of heat and power by 2020. This represents up to about 8 per cent. of the renewable energy we estimate will be required by 2020.

Warm Front Scheme

Greg Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how many Warm Front installations there have been in each of the last five years; what the cost to the public purse of such installations was in each such year; how many such installations have been undertaken by eaga and its subsidiaries in each such year; and at what cost. [256068]

Joan Ruddock: The number of households assisted by Warm Front in each of the last five years was as follows:

	Households assisted
2004-05	208,084
2005-06	173,184
2006-07	253,079
2007-08	268,900
2008-09[1]	181,897

[1] To January 2009.

The budget allocated by the Department to Warm Front in each of the last five years was as follows:

	£ million
2004-05	166
2005-06	192
2006-07	320
2007-08	350
2008-09	395

When eaga won [illegible] competitive tender to deliver Warm Front across [illegible] of England in 2005, they agreed with the Department that up to 30 per cent. of scheme capacity could be undertaken by eaga's in-house contractors. The cost and percentage of scheme capacity completed by eaga's in-house contractors since this role was assumed in 2005 has been:

	2005-06	*2006-07*	*2007-08*	*2008-09*
	12 months	*12 months*	*12 months*	*10 months*
Total cost of measures (£)	111,090,172	180,722,278	221,727,693	184,933,404

	2005-06 *12 months*	*2006-07* *12 months*	*2007-08* *12 months*	*2008-09* *10 months*
Measures delivered by eaga inhouse capacity (£)	12,039,141	41,820,582	66,250,397	54,954,419
Percentage of work	11	23	30	30

Charles Hendry: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what estimate he has made of the proportion of successful applicants to the Warm Front scheme who topped-up the grant with funds from other sources in the latest period for which figures are available. [266079]

Joan Ruddock *[holding answer 24 March 2009]:* The latest period for which figures are available is April 2008 to February 2009. These figures are as follows:

Scheme year 2008-09

	Number
Households assisted	211,920
Households where a client contribution was paid	41,586

Charles Hendry: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what estimate he has made of the percentage of successful applicants to the Warm Front scheme who were in fuel poverty in the latest period for which figures are available. [266080]

Joan Ruddock *[holding answer 24 March 2009]:* According to the English House Condition survey of 2006, at least 25 per cent. of all vulnerable households eligible for the scheme were fuel poor. It is likely, however, that many of the residual number may have otherwise fallen into, or have been near falling into fuel poverty, as a result of gas and electricity price increases in 2007 and 2008.

Charles Hendry: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how many applications were made for grants under the Warm Front scheme in each year from 2000 to 2008. [266081]

Joan Ruddock *[holding answer 24 March 2009]:* Prior to 2005, the scheme was managed in separate areas by Eaga and Powergen TXU and consolidated figures are not available for this period. The number of applications made since the start of the current phase of the Warm Front scheme in 2005 are as follows:

Scheme year	*Total applications to Warm Front*
2005-06	195,876
2006-07	336,666
2007-08	388,326
2008-09[1]	301,529
Total	1,222,397

[1] To 28 February

Greg Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change pursuant to the answer of 9 March 2009, *Official Report*, column 59W, on the Warm Front scheme, what estimate he has made of the number of eligible households which are classified as being in fuel poverty. [266768]

Joan Ruddock: According to the English House Condition survey of 2006, at least 25 per cent. of all vulnerable households eligible for the scheme were fuel poor and approximately 3.3 million households were eligible for assistance. Given these figures, the Department estimates that approximately 825,00 households eligible for the scheme at this time were fuel poor. It is likely, however, that many of the residual number may have otherwise fallen into, or have been near falling into fuel poverty, as a result of gas and electricity price increases in 2007 and 2008.

Warm Front Scheme: East Sussex

Mr. Waterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how many of the households supplied with light bulbs under the Warm Front scheme in *(a)* Eastbourne and *(b)* East Sussex received bulbs which were classified as energy-efficient in each of the last nine years. [267509]

Joan Ruddock: All households who have applied and been found eligible for Warm Front in Eastbourne and East Sussex received light bulbs which were energy efficient. A break down is provided as follows:

	Eastbourne	*East Sussex*
2000-01	151	1,371
2001-02	336	3,688
2002-03	567	3,801
2003-04	438	2,834
2004-05	530	3,595
2005-06	417	2,241
2006-07	542	3,387
2007-08	300	3,230
2008-09	313	2,686
Total	3,594	26,833

HOME DEPARTMENT

Animal Experiments: Primates

Mr. Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what estimate she has made of the cost of using *(a)* F1 and *(b)* F2 primates in (i) pharmaceutical testing and (ii) other common areas of testing. [266909]

Meg Hillier: No estimates have yet been made of the cost of using F1 and F2 generation non-human primates bred for research purposes under the Animals (Scientific Procedures) Act 1986 in either pharmaceutical testing or other common areas of testing.

We will consider these costs in assessing the impact of the European Commission's proposal for a draft directive for the protection of animals used in scientific procedures to replace Directive 86/609/EEC published in November 2008. We will publish the impact assessment when we consult formally on the draft directive.

Asylum

Tom Brake: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the immigration status of the asylum seeker with the Home Office reference M1225028 was on 2 April 2007. [242366]

Mr. Woolas: The UK Border Agency replied to the hon. Member on 11 December 2008.

Tom Brake: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the immigration status of the asylum seeker with Home Office reference Y1062497 was on 2 April 2007. [242367]

Mr. Woolas: The UK Border Agency replied to the hon. Member on 11 December 2008.

Mr. Hands: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many outstanding cases the UK Border Agency's Case Resolution Directorate had at the latest date for which figures are available. [242834]

Mr. Woolas: A previous Home Secretary informed Parliament in July 2006 of

> "the immigration and nationality directorate's case load of around 400,000 to 450,000 electronic and paper records, which, as honourable Members also know, are riddled with duplication and errors, and include cases of individuals who have since died or left the country, or are now EU citizens... We will tackle the case load in the IND with the aim of clearing it-not in 25 years, as has been suggested, but in five or less."—[*Official Report*, 19 July 2006, Vol 449, c.324.]

In her update to the Home Affairs Select Committee, Lin Homer, the UK Border Agency chief executive has stated that 130,000 cases have now been concluded up to the end of October 2008. The number of conclusions has increased to 155,500 as at 9 January 2009. The Case Resolution Directorate is on track to complete all cases by summer 2011.

Mr. Hands: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many cases the UK Border Agency's Case Resolution Directorate has resolved in each month since it was established, broken down by *(a)* applicants granted leave, *(b)* applicants refused leave, *(c)* cases withdrawn by the applicant and *(d)* cases closed on administrative grounds. [242835]

Mr. Woolas: The Case Resolution Directorate in the period July to November 2007 had total conclusions of 52,000 cases and this is broken down as 19,000 were grants, 16,000 were removals and 17,000 were other conclusions such as errors and duplicates.

Between 1 December 2007 and 31 May 2008 the Case Resolution Directorate total conclusions were 90,000 and this is broken down as 39,000 were grants, 20,000 were removals and 32,000 were other conclusions where there were errors or duplicates found in the system.

Between 1 June 2008 and 31 October 2008 the Case Resolution Directorate total conclusions had reached 130,000 and this is broken down as 51,000 grants, 23,500 removals and 53,500 other conclusions such as errors and duplicates on the system.

To obtain the information on withdrawn claims as applicants often do withdraw their claim would involve a detailed examination of our case records and so this would involve a disproportionate cost.

Mr. Hands: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what percentage of applicants granted leave by the UK Border Agency's Case Resolution Directorate were granted *(a)* temporary and *(b)* permanent leave to remain. [242836]

Mr. Woolas: We do not hold this information in this format and to obtain it would entail work being carried out at a disproportionate cost.

Mr. Hands: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many cases the UK Border Agency's Case Resolution Directorate planned to resolve in each quarter of 2008. [242837]

Mr. Woolas: We are prioritising cases likely to cause harm, cases facing removal and cases likely to be granted, and these cases take considerably more casework time than "others" such as errors or duplicates. The Case Resolution Directorate has ramped up performance in dealing with the asylum legacy cases and is now resolving several thousand every month. Up to 9 January 2009 they had concluded 155,500 cases, up from 130,000 case conclusions reported in December 2008.

Asylum: Deportation

Damian Green: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department to which countries her Department cannot return unsuccessful asylum seekers on humanitarian grounds; and how many unsuccessful asylum seekers from each such country were present in the United Kingdom on 1 November 2008. [243122]

Mr. Woolas: There are no countries to which there is a blanket approach of not returning failed asylum seekers on humanitarian grounds. The Government believe that the right approach is to consider the protection needs of individuals on an individual basis.

Each asylum and human rights claim is considered on its individual merits in accordance with our international obligations and taking full account of conditions in the country concerned as they impact on the individual. Those found to be in need of international protection are provided with it. Failed asylum seekers of all nationalities who have been found by the Home Office and the appeals process not to be in need of international protection and have no legal basis of stay in the UK are expected to return to their country of origin and may have their removal enforced.

Asylum: Housing

Damian Green: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer of 16 March 2009, *Official Report*, column 915W, on asylum: housing, how many properties are covered by the 28 contracts with providers to supply accommodation for asylum seekers. [267459]

Mr. Woolas: Information on the number of properties covered by the UK Border Agency's 28 contracts with accommodation providers to supply accommodation for asylum seekers could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Asylum: Palestinians

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many failed asylum seekers there are in the UK from *(a)* the Palestinian territories and *(b)* the Gaza Strip who have not been granted leave to remain and for which the Government have no removal plans; and if she will make a statement. [264175]

Mr. Woolas: Since the phasing out of embarkation controls in 1994 no Government have been able to produce accurate figures for the number of failed asylum seekers who have remained in the United Kingdom after they have reached the Appeal Rights Exhausted stage, have not been granted leave to remain and no longer have any further claim to remain here. This applies irrespective of an individual's nationality or place of origin.

All asylum claims including those from individuals from the Palestinian territories (including the Gaza strip) are considered on their individual merits in accordance with our obligations under the 1951 refugee convention and the European convention on human rights. Those identified by the decision-making process and the independent appeals process not to be in need of international protection are expected to leave the UK voluntarily. Failed asylum seekers can and do voluntarily return to the Palestinian territories (including the Gaza strip). Those who do not leave voluntarily may have their return enforced.

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many failed asylum seekers there are in the UK from *(a)* the Palestinian territories and *(b)* the Gaza Strip awaiting a decision on a new claim for asylum and for which the Government have no removal plans; and if she will make a statement. [264176]

Mr. Woolas: Information on the number of failed asylum seekers who have made further submissions on their case which are still awaiting consideration can be obtained only at disproportionate cost. This applies irrespective of an individual's nationality or place of origin. Further submissions will only be classed as a fresh claim retrospectively following their full consideration where the submissions meet the criteria set out in paragraph 353 of the Immigration Rules.

All asylum claims including those from individuals from the Palestinian territories (including the Gaza strip) are considered on their individual merits in accordance with our obligations under the 1951 refugee convention and the European convention on human rights. Those identified by the decision-making process and the independent appeals process as not being in need of international protection are expected to leave the UK voluntarily. Failed asylum seekers can and do voluntarily return to the Palestinian territories (including the Gaza strip). Those who do not leave voluntarily may have their return enforced.

However, the UK Border Agency will not enforce the return of a failed asylum-seeker who has made further submissions in their case as long as those submissions, including any appeal if the submissions are accepted as a fresh claim, remain pending. Again, this applies irrespective of an individual's nationality or place or origin.

Asylum: Sexual Offences

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many asylum seekers on entry into the UK have used *(a)* sexual assault, *(b)* rape and *(c)* gender-based violence as the basis for their asylum claim in each year since 2001. [264521]

Jacqui Smith: The requested information is unavailable as it is not collated centrally and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost by examination of individual case records.

Information on asylum is published annually and quarterly. Statistics for the first quarter of 2009 will be available in May 2009 from the Library of the House and from the Home Office Research, Development and Statistics Directorate website at:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/immigration-asylum-stats.html

Borders: Personal Records

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when she expects the e-Borders system to have captured *(a)* 100 million and *(b)* 200 million passenger movements; and when she expects the system will have captured 20 million passenger movements utilising passenger name record data. [267215]

Mr. Woolas: The UK Border Agency expects the e-Borders system will capture:

(a) 100 million passengers per year by June 2009.

(b) 200 million passengers per year by December 2010.

The capture of an additional 20 million passenger movements, utilising passenger name record data, will be achieved by December 2010.

Cannabis

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer of 24 February 2009, *Official Report*, column 673W, on cannabis, where illegal drugs used for police training purposes are *(a)* obtained and *(b)* stored; and what guidance her Department has issued to police forces on such matters. [262367]

Jacqui Smith *[holding answer 10 March 2009]*: Cannabis is the only drug where smell and touch cannot be replicated. Other illegal drugs are represented by facsimiles that are purchased by police forces as a "dummy box".

Cannabis is obtained from confiscations which are marked for destruction once the respective case is closed.

The illegal drugs are stored in property stores, the majority of which are located at respective police force headquarters. Property stores are strong, locked rooms with separate drugs cabinets. These are under the control and supervision of the Serious Organised Crime Agency.

Close supervision is exercised by a senior officer to ensure proper removal, use and replacement of the substances. Release can be obtained only by authorised drug trainers.

Crime

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many instances of *(a)* firearms incidents, *(b)* licensing incidents, *(c)* suspicious circumstances and *(d)* truancy, as defined by the National Incident Category List, were recorded by each police force in 2007-08. [258636]

Jacqui Smith: The data requested are shown in the table. The data are normally used for management information only and are not subject to the detailed checks that apply for National Statistics publications. The data are provisional and may be subject to change.

As part of the reviews of the burdens the Home Office places on police forces, the National Incident Category List has been simplified for 2009, with a 33 per cent. reduction in complexity, leading to a significant decrease in the data demand placed on forces.

2007-08

		Firearms	*Licensing*	*Suspicious circumstances*	*Truancy*
F01	Avon and Somerset	946	151	33,619	53
F02	Bedfordshire	649	65	19,252	8
F03	Cambridgeshire	115	60	18,324	33
F04	Cheshire	593	390	24,794	178
F05	City of London[1]	[2]—	[2]—	[2]—	[2]—
F06	Cleveland	273	159	27,775	34
F07	Cumbria	626	358	15,657	90
F08	Derbyshire	724	435	31,791	48
F09	Devon and Cornwall	702	83	26,750	84
F10	Dorset	172	114	19,667	51
F11	Durham	474	28	18,540	15
F12	Dyfed Powys	64	60	10,897	72
F13	Essex	478	505	43,060	5
F14	Gloucestershire	83	150	17,919	38
F15	Greater Manchester	725	745	88,233	54
F16	Gwent	289	246	11,317	51
F17	Hampshire	1,005	69	24,834	26
F18	Hertfordshire	1,906	184	35,829	20
F19	Humberside	577	211	23,933	118
F20	Kent	1,527	242	62,254	53
F21	Lancashire	1,119	551	65,973	514
F22	Leicestershire	338	102	22,930	14
F23	Lincolnshire	1,440	101	15,936	38
F24	Merseyside	183	759	61,963	42
F25	Metropolitan police[1]	[2]—	[2]—	[2]—	[2]—
F26	Norfolk	416	113	20,154	32
F27	Northamptonshire	203	81	19,067	10
F28	Northumbria	2,273	565	31,117	80
F29	North Wales	236	198	23,115	68
F30	North Yorkshire	412	94	19,410	66
F31	Nottinghamshire	1,024	202	45,418	22
F32	South Wales	1,161	167	19,464	25
F33	South Yorkshire	824	209	40,107	13
F34	Staffordshire	1,581	118	22,129	33
F35	Suffolk	228	58	14,424	[2]—
F36	Surrey	197	215	22,857	45
F37	Sussex	1,031	279	33,949	43
F38	Thames Valley	517	78	53,905	29
F39	Warwickshire	123	46	12,004	6
F40	West Mercia	368	54	38,312	95
F41	West Midlands	420	887	89,164	66
F42	West Yorkshire	313	164	68,074	116
F43	Wiltshire	203	26	10,022	98

[1] At the start of 2007-08 the Metropolitan Police Service and City of London Police had implemented NSIR in respect of incidents recorded under antisocial behaviour only.

[2] These data are not available.

Crime Prevention

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when she plans to publish the results of the most recently completed crime and disorder reduction partnerships survey. [254363]

Jacqui Smith: We do not publish an annual crime and disorder reduction partnerships (CDRPs) survey. Under the Crime and Disorder Act 1998. CDRPs had previously been required to report annually to the Secretary of State on the partnerships work and progress. This duty was repealed in 2007.

Departmental Buildings

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what properties *(a)* her Department and *(b)* its agencies have sold in each of the last five years; and how many have been sold for housing developments. [265118]

Mr. Woolas: The Home Office including its agencies leases the majority of its estate. However Horseferry House London SW1 was sold in July 2005 for office use, and as part of the PFI for 2 Marsham Street London SW1 surplus land was sold in May 2004 for housing and other purposes. The former RAF Coltishall was transferred to the Ministry of Justice in 2008.

Departmental Contracts

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the monetary value of new external contracts let by Home Office Research, Development and Statistics to *(a)* institutions supported by higher education funding councils and *(b)* other organisations and bodies was in each financial year since 2001. [259861]

Jacqui Smith: Table (a) gives the total costs, based on centrally held management information, of new contracts let by the Research, Development and Statistics Procurement (now part of Science and Research Group Procurement) group within the Home Office since 2001. From 2007-08 the values exclude research that was transferred to the Ministry of Justice as part of the machinery of Government changes. The values are classified into the year the contracts were let; some of the costs for the contract would be for future years.

	Value (£)
2001-02	12,657,116
2002-03	17,758,993
2003-04	20,139,267
2004-05	10,334,876
2005-06	4,439,257
2006-07	14,589,931
2007-08[1]	16,925,401
2008-09[1]	2,858,229

[1] 2007-08 and 2008-09 exclude Ministry of Justice

Table (b) gives the total costs of new contracts let by the Research, Development and Statistics Procurement group within the Home Office since 2001 to institutions supported by higher education funding councils. The values are classified into the year the contracts were let; some of the costs for the contract would be for future years.

	Value (£)
2001-02	9,043,351
2002-03	1,420,941
2003-04	3,297,858
2004-05	3,365,441
2005-06	618,275
2006-07	769,592
2007-08[1]	221,268
2008-09[1]	291,800

[1] 2007-08 and 2008-09 exclude Ministry of justice

Table (c) gives the total costs of new contracts let by the Research Development and Statistics group within the Home Office since 2001 to 'other organisations and bodies' including named individuals. These values may include contracts awarded to individuals who, while employed by an institute supported by the higher education funding councils, are undertaking work in a private capacity. The values are classified into the year the contracts were let; some of the costs for the contract would be for future years.

	Value (£)
2001-02	21,700,467
2002-03	19,179,935
2003-04	23,437,125
2004-05	13,700,317
2005-06	5,057,532
2006-07	15,359,523
2007-08[1]	17,146,669
2008-09[1]	3,150,029

[1] 2007-08 and 2008-09 exclude Ministry of Justice

Departmental Pay

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many bonuses were awarded to senior civil servants working at her Department and its agencies in *(a)* 2007 and *(b)* 2008; and how much was spent on such bonuses in each of those years. [249864]

Mr. Woolas: Bonuses to senior staff in the Home Office are awarded each year according to criteria set by the Government, following the recommendations from the independent Senior Salaries Review Body. In 2006-07 and 2007-08, the Review Body recommended bonuses should be paid to between 60 and 75 per cent. of senior staff according to performance, with a bonus "pot" of 7.6 per cent. in 2006-07 and 8.6 per cent. in 2007-08. These recommendations were accepted by the Government.

In line with these recommendations, the Home Office awarded bonuses to 158 senior staff in 2006-07 (70 per cent. of the total) and 128 staff in 2007-08 (74 per cent. of a smaller total, reflecting the transfer of staff to the Ministry of Justice). Bonuses were mainly in the range £3,000 to £10,000 in 2006-07 and £6,000 to £17,000 in 2007-08, with a small number of higher bonuses paid to a handful of exceptional performers.

Departmental Public Expenditure

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much capital spending is planned to be brought forward by her Department to *(a)* 2008-09 and *(b)* 2009-10. [266290]

Mr. Woolas: As announced in the pre-Budget report on 24 November 2008 £20 million of capital expenditure has been brought forward from 2010-11 to 2009-10 to improve the estates of the Serious Organised Crime Agency and the National Police Improvement Agency, developing and installing high technology systems and enhancing intelligence gathering against serious organised crime.

Departmental Standards

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what estimate she has made of the cost to her Department of measuring compliance with its targets under its public service agreements in the last 12 months for which figures are available. [266564]

Mr. Woolas: Measuring compliance with PSA targets is an integral aspect of the Home Office's performance management framework. The Department does not treat this as an activity for which costs are allocated or monitored separately.

Departmental Training

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much her Department has spent on the provision of training to Ministers and civil servants in each of the last three years. [266215]

Mr. Woolas: The Home Office is committed to learning and development to enhance capability and further improve its effectiveness.

Figures on training for Ministers and civil servants in the Home Office in each of the last three years are as follows:

	£
2008-09	[1]14,232,000
2007-08	17,018,000
2006-07	13,161,000

[1] Latest available.

These figures do not include all of the spend incurred locally on learning and development activities within specific business areas, which could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Detainees: Immigration

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people of each nationality held in immigration removal centres have been detained for more than a year in each year since 2001. [264499]

Jacqui Smith: Information on all persons detained for more than one year is not held centrally and would be available only through the detailed examination of individual case files at disproportionate cost.

The following table shows the numbers of persons detained within the UK Border Agency detention estate solely under immigration act powers for more than one year on a snapshot basis as at the last Saturday of each year (i.e. of those detained on that particular day, the numbers of whom had been detained for over a year), from 2001 to 2008, broken down by country of nationality.

National statistics on persons detained solely under immigration act powers on a snapshot basis are published quarterly. This information is published in Tables 9-11 of the control of immigration: Quarterly statistical summary, United Kingdom bulletins which are available from the Library of the House and from the Home Office's Research, Development and Statistics website at:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/immigration-asylum-stats.html

Persons recorded as being in detention in the United Kingdom solely under immigration act powers for more than one year[1], by country of nationality as at the last Saturday of each year, 2001-2008[2, 3]

Number of persons

Country of nationality	29 Dec. 2001[4]	28 Dec. 2002[4]	27 Dec. 2003[4]	25 Dec. 2004	31 Dec. 2005	30 Dec. 2006	29 Dec. 2007	27 Dec. 2008[5]
Albania	—	—	—	—	—	n/a	n/a	—
Macedonia	—	—	—	—	—	n/a	n/a	—
Moldova	—	—	—	—	—	n/a	n/a	—
Russia	—	—	*	—	—	n/a	n/a	*
Turkey	*	—	*	*	—	n/a	n/a	*
Ukraine	—	*	5	*	—	n/a	n/a	—
EU Accession States[6]	*	—	—	—	—	n/a	n/a	—
Other Former USSR	—	—	—	—	—	n/a	n/a	—
Other Europe	—	—	—	*	*	n/a	n/a	*
Total Europe	*	*	5	5	*	n/a	n/a	5
Bolivia	—	—	—	—	—	n/a	n/a	—
Brazil	—	—	—	—	—	n/a	n/a	—
Canada	—	—	—	—	—	n/a	n/a	—
Colombia	*	—	—	—	—	n/a	n/a	*
Ecuador	—	—	—	—	—	n/a	n/a	—
Jamaica	—	—	*	10	5	n/a	n/a	10
Mexico	—	—	—	—	—	n/a	n/a	—
USA	—	—	—	—	—	n/a	n/a	*
Other Americas	—	*	—	—	—	n/a	n/a	—
Total Americas	*	*	*	10	5	n/a	n/a	15
Algeria	10	5	5	5	5	n/a	n/a	10

Persons recorded as being in detention in the United Kingdom solely under immigration act powers for more than one year[1], by country of nationality as at the last Saturday of each year, 2001-2008[2,3]

Number of persons

Country of nationality	*29 Dec. 2001[4]*	*28 Dec. 2002[4]*	*27 Dec. 2003[4]*	*25 Dec. 2004*	*31 Dec. 2005*	*30 Dec. 2006*	*29 Dec. 2007*	*27 Dec. 2008[5]*
Angola	*	—	—	—	5	n/a	n/a	5
Burundi	—	—	—	—	*	n/a	n/a	—
Cameroon	—	—	—	*	*	n/a	n/a	—
Congo	—	—	—	*	—	n/a	n/a	—
Democratic Republic of Congo	—	*	—	*	*	n/a	n/a	5
Eritrea	—	—	—	*	—	n/a	n/a	5
Ethiopia	—	—	—	*	*	n/a	n/a	*
Gambia	—	—	—	—	*	n/a	n/a	*
Ghana	*	—	*	*	*	n/a	n/a	*
Ivory Coast	—	—	*	*	—	n/a	n/a	*
Kenya	5	*	—	—	—	n/a	n/a	*
Liberia	—	—	—	—	—	n/a	n/a	*
Libya	*	—	*	—	—	n/a	n/a	*
Mauritius	—	—	—	—	—	n/a	n/a	—
Nigeria	*	*	*	5	*	n/a	n/a	10
Rwanda	—	—	—	—	—	n/a	n/a	—
Sierra Leone	—	—	—	—	*	n/a	n/a	*
Somalia	—	—	—	*	*	n/a	n/a	20
South Africa	—	—	—	*	*	n/a	n/a	—
Sudan	—	—	—	—	*	n/a	n/a	5
Tanzania	—	5	*	*	—	n/a	n/a	—
Uganda	—	—	—	—	—	n/a	n/a	*
Zimbabwe	—	—	—	—	—	n/a	n/a	5
Other Africa	*	*	*	—	*	n/a	n/a	5
Total Africa	15	15	10	20	25	n/a	n/a	85
Iran	*	—	—	—	*	n/a	n/a	15
Iraq	—	—	—	—	*	n/a	n/a	10
Syria	—	—	—	—	—	n/a	n/a	—
Other Middle East	—	—	—	—	—	n/a	n/a	*
Total Middle East	*	—	—	—	5	n/a	n/a	25
Afghanistan	—	—	—	—	—	n/a	n/a	*
Australia	—	—	—	—	—	n/a	n/a	—
Bangladesh	—	*	—	—	*	n/a	n/a	*
China (including Taiwan)	5	*	*	*	5	n/a	n/a	10
India	*	—	—	5	*	n/a	n/a	5
Malaysia	—	—	—	—	—	n/a	n/a	—
New Zealand	—	—	—	—	—	n/a	n/a	—
Pakistan	5	—	5	*	5	n/a	n/a	*
Philippines	—	—	—	—	—	n/a	n/a	—
South Korea	—	—	—	—	—	n/a	n/a	—
Sri Lanka	5	*	*	5	—	n/a	n/a	5
Thailand	—	—	—	—	—	n/a	n/a	—
Vietnam	—	—	—	—	—	n/a	n/a	5
Other Asia and Oceania	*	—	—	—	—	n/a	n/a	—
Total Asia and Oceania	15	5	5	15	10	n/a	n/a	25
Other and not known	—	—	—	—	—	n/a	n/a	—
Grand Total	35	20	25	45	40	n/a	n/a	150

n/a = Not available. Following a change in the system in which information is collected, published statistics on all persons detained under sole immigration act powers by length of detention are not available for December 2006 and 2007.

[1] Relates to most recent period of sole detention.

[2] Figures rounded to the nearest 5 (— = 0, * = 1 or 2), may not sum to the totals shown because of independent rounding and exclude persons detained in police cells, prison service establishments and those detained under both criminal and immigration powers.

[3] Figures include dependants.

[4] Figures exclude those detained in Oakington Reception Centre; where persons have been transferred to and subsequently from Oakington, excludes time in detention prior to transfer from Oakington.

[5] Figures are based on management information. This information has not been quality assured under national statistics protocols, is subject to change and should be treated as provisional.

[6] EU accession states: Bulgaria, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, Poland, Romania, Slovakia and Slovenia.

Detainees: Women

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many *(a)* women and *(b)* children held in immigration removal centres have identified themselves as being subject to (i) sexual assault, (ii) rape and (iii) gender-based violence in their country of origin. [264522]

Jacqui Smith: The information requested is not collected centrally and could be obtained through examination of individual records only at disproportionate cost.

Dogs

Michael Fabricant: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many dogs for the detection of *(a)* drugs, *(b)* foodstuffs and *(c)* other illegal imports are in use at (i) sea, (ii) air and (iii) rail points of entry to the UK. [266379]

Mr. Woolas: The UK Border Agency currently has 48 dogs trained to detect drugs, six trained to detect meat and other animal products and 34 to detect other illegal imports. Some of these dogs are trained to detect more than one product.

Detector dogs are a flexible mobile resource, deployed on a risk-assessed, intelligence-led basis. They may be used at any port, airport or other point of entry into the UK.

Eddie Gilfoyle

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what *(a)* inquiries and *(b)* disciplinary measures have been taken following the response of Merseyside Police to (i) the Police Complaints Authority in 1994 and (ii) freedom of information requests made by *The Times* newspaper on police notes from the crime scene in the case of Mr. Eddie Gilfoyle. [260695]

Jacqui Smith: The PCA supervised two separate investigations carried out by Detective Superintendent Gooch of Lancashire police, and Detective Superintendent Mellor of Cheshire police, into complaints made by members of the Gilfoyle family. As a result of Detective Superintendent Gooch's report, two Merseyside officers faced discipline charges. Following a five-day panel hearing in May 1998, all charges were dismissed. No disciplinary action was taken as a result of Superintendent Mellor's report.

I understand that the Merseyside Police is currently conducting an internal review of their handling of the recent FOI request from *The Times*. This is an operational matter for the Chief Constable.

Emergency Calls

Mr. Crausby: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what steps her Department is taking to reduce the number of hoax 999 calls made to the police. [265878]

Mr. Coaker: Hoax 999 calls to the police cause the wasteful misdirection of their resources which are better used in serving the public. There are a range of measures available to the police including prosecution under the Communications Act 2003 and the Criminal Law Act 1967, the issue of fixed penalty notice for disorder and the issue of antisocial behaviour orders. Police forces can and do make use of these measures. Nationally, the National Policing Improvement Agency provides central advice and guidance to the police.

Entry Clearances: Business

Mr. Grieve: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how the UK Border Agency will check that a foreign national entering the country as a business visitor does not work whilst in the UK. [241609]

Mr. Woolas: Visa nationals seeking to enter the United Kingdom as business visitors need to satisfy the entry clearance officer and, along with non-visa nationals, the immigration officer that they meet the requirements for business visitors in the immigration rules. The rules include a requirement that the person is intending to undertake a permissible business visitor activity in the UK.

The UK Border Agency is committed to tackling illegal migrant working and will act on any intelligence it receives that a business is employing illegal workers. Those individuals who are found to be working in breach of their granted leave may be subject to appropriate enforcement action.

Equally, if an employer is found to be employing an illegal migrant worker and they have not ensured that the person has full entitlement to work in the UK, then they may be subject to a civil penalty of up to £10,000 or, in more serious cases, criminal prosecution. If convicted on indictment, the employer may face an unlimited fine and in some cases, imprisonment for up to two years.

Mr. Grieve: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what records UK Border Agency will keep of the companies that receive individuals who have entered the UK as a business visitor to act as advisers, consultants, trainers or trouble shooters for those companies. [241610]

Mr. Woolas: The UK Border Agency does not keep records of companies that have received persons who have entered the UK as a business visitor.

Identity Cards: Foreigners

Mr. Grieve: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether foreign nationals applying overseas for visas to remain in the UK for a period greater than three months will also be required to apply for an identity card prior to their arrival in the UK. [241656]

Mr. Woolas *[holding answer 9 December 2008]:* Under current plans, from 2011 there will be complete coverage for all new applicants, which includes those coming to the UK on visas valid for more than six months. Those applying for leave for six months or less will not be required to apply for an identity card.

This is set out in detail in the Government's report on its roll-out strategy for identity cards for foreign nationals, 'Introducing Compulsory Identity Cards For Foreign Nationals', published in March 2008

http://www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/sitecontent/documents/managingourborders/compulsoryidcards

A hard copy of the report was placed in the Library of the House of Commons.

Immigration Controls: Foreign Workers

Mr. Soames: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether a resident labour market test will apply to the movement of workers to the UK under Mode 4 of the General Agreement on Trade in Services. [253506]

Mr. Woolas *[holding answer 2 February 2009]:* A resident labour market test will not apply to the movement of workers to the United Kingdom under Mode 4 of the General Agreement on Trade in Services.

Immigration Controls: Overseas Students

Mr. Oaten: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what discussions her Department had with educational institutions in its preparation of the requirements placed upon higher and further education institutions under Tier 4 of the 2008 changes to immigration rules. [267776]

Mr. Woolas: The phased implementation of Tier 4 of the Points Based System, which has been agreed with the education sector and DIUS, commenced on 28 July 2008, when the UK Border Agency started accepting sponsor licence applications from educational institutions that wish to bring students from outside the European Economic Area to the UK for study. The Statement of Changes to the Immigration Rules (HC 314) laid before the House on 9 March 2009 marks the start of the second phase: from 31 March 2009, only UK Border Agency licensed institutions will be able to bring students to the UK, and student applicants will need to meet the Tier 4 points test before being granted leave to enter or remain.

The Joint Education Taskforce (JET) is the UK Border Agency's principal mechanism for consultation with the education sector and has been running since 2005. The JET comprises senior figures and representative bodies from all parts of the education sector, including higher and further education, and it and its sub-groups meet on a regular basis.

The UK Border Agency has engaged intensively with the education sector, through sector-wide forums to meetings with individual educational institutions. In addition, the UK Border Agency ran a series of events across the UK, specific to the education sector, during November and December 2008 and will continue to run targeted communications and events throughout 2009.

Mosques

Mark Pritchard: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many complaints were received by the police alleging corporal punishment in mosques in England and Wales in 2008. [262892]

Mr. Coaker: The information requested is not collected centrally.

National DNA Database: Children

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many children's DNA records have been removed from the national DNA database since the database was established. [264013]

Jacqui Smith: Following my announcement on 16 December 2008 that children's profiles would no longer be retained on the NDNAD, a total of 96 profiles belonging to children under 10 have been deleted from the NDNAD. At 5 March 2009, none of the profiles stored on the NDNAD by police forces in England and Wales were of children aged under 10 years old.

Olympic Games 2012: Security

Tom Brake: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what assessment she has made of the implications of the recent terrorist attacks in Lahore for the security of the London 2012 Olympics. [265563]

Mr. Coaker: The impact of the tragic events in Pakistan will be considered as a part of our planning for the security of the London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games, and we will continue to monitor our position between now and 2012; but this is exactly why our planning approach is based on information, intelligence and risk and remains flexible.

Performing Arts

John Mason: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether her Department has engaged any *(a)* actors, *(b)* musicians and *(c)* other performers to support its initiatives over the last five years. [264058]

Mr. Woolas: The Home Office use a considerable number of actors who appear in TV commercials, provide voiceovers on radio adverts, appear on online adverts, or appear in street theatre (experiential marketing); however, the Department's record/financial systems are not able to identify this information within the disproportionate cost threshold.

Police: Electronic Equipment

Jeff Ennis: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many hand-held devices have been issued to police officers and police community support officers by South Yorkshire Police Authority. [264555]

Mr. Coaker: As at 12 March 2009, the number of devices issued in South Yorkshire was 354.

Police: Marketing

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much has been spent on the advertising and marketing of the Policing Pledge in England and Wales. [265488]

Jacqui Smith: The Home Office are currently running a campaign to raise awareness and understanding of the Policing Pledge in order to help people feel safe in their communities by building public confidence in the police service.

This includes a text-back service where the public text "pledge" and their postcode to 66101 in order to receive contact details for their local Neighbourhood Policing Team.

The Home Office media spend on the advertising and marketing of the Policing Pledge in England and Wales in the 2008-09 financial year is £3,427,521.00.

Prisoners: Foreigners

Mr. Garnier: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many *(a)* adult and *(b)* young offender foreign national prisoners were held in prison under immigration powers beyond the expiration of their sentence in each of the last 10 years. [266597]

Mr. Woolas: Historical annual figures on the numbers of adult and young offender foreign national prisoners who are detained in prisons beyond the expiration of their sentence are not centrally collated. This information can be obtained only through the detailed examination of individual records at disproportionate cost.

The chief executive of the UK Border Agency has regularly written to the Home Affairs Select Committee in order to provide all of the most robust and accurate information on the detention and deportation of foreign national prisoners. She has advised the committee that the majority of individuals who are subject to deportation action are transferred into the UK Border Agency detention estate in order to facilitate their removal/ deportation. Such transfers take place on a regular basis. In her letter of 23 July 2008 she advised that there was, at the time, a total of 1,650 foreign national prisoners detained for that purpose in both the agency's detention estate and the prison estate.

Security Guards: Licensing

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether applicants for a Security Industry Authority licence *(a)* are required and *(b)* have previously been required to have a health and safety at work qualification in order to be granted a licence. [257049]

Jacqui Smith: The training and qualifications that applicants must obtain in order for the Security Industry Authority to grant a licence include an appropriate health and safety content. However, there is not, nor has there been in the past, a requirement for applicants to hold a specific health and safety at work qualification.

Further information on the requirements for training and qualifications is on the SIA's website at:

http://www.the-sia.org.uk/home/training/

Written Questions: Government Responses

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when she plans to answer question 251383, tabled on 22 January 2009, on ICT projects; and if she will make a statement. [264173]

Mr. Woolas: I replied to the hon. Member on 24 March 2009, *Official Report*, column 299W.

Young People: Police Custody

Mr. Waterson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many juveniles were detained in police cells overnight in *(a)* Eastbourne and *(b)* East Sussex in each year of the last five years. [267213]

Mr. Coaker: Information on persons detained in police cells overnight is not collected centrally.

DUCHY OF LANCASTER

Alastair Campbell

Mr. Hands: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster when Alastair Campbell's security pass for 10 Downing Street was withdrawn. [267292]

Kevin Brennan: It has been the practice of successive Governments not to comment on security matters.

Childbirth

Mr. Frank Field: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what estimate the Office for National Statistics has made of the number of births in each of the years from 2008 to 2031 inclusive; and what estimate it has made of the number of those accounted for by net migration. [267778]

Kevin Brennan: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the Authority to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated March 2009:

As National Statistician I have been asked to reply to your question regarding what estimate the Office for National Statistics has made of the number of births in each of the years from 2008 to 2031, inclusive; and what estimate it has made of the number of those accounted for by net migration. [267778]

The attached table shows the projected number of births in the UK for each year from mid-2008 to mid-2031 according to the 2006-based principal national population projection.

A direct estimate of the number of projected births from 2008 to 2031 accounted for by net migration is not available. However, it is possible to compare the results of the principal projection with the 2006-based 'zero migration' variant projection. The 'zero migration' variant projection assumes that net migration will be zero at all ages throughout the projection period but makes the same assumptions about future fertility and mortality as the principal projection.

On this basis, the table also shows the estimated number of projected births attributable to assumed net migration from mid-2006 onwards. There are limitations to this as a direct estimate of the impact of net migration on the number of births over the period 2008-2031. These limitations are that the comparison will:

exclude births to migrants who arrived in the UK prior to mid-2006; but

include, in later years, births to UK-born women who are children of migrants who arrived in the UK after mid-2006.

Projected number of births, United Kingdom, 2008 to 2031, 2006-based principal projection and zero migration variant projection

Year to	Principal projection: Births	Zero migration variant projection: Births	Difference: Births accounted for by assumed net migration from mid-2006
			Thousand
mid-2008	769	756	13
mid-2009	781	757	23
mid-2010	790	756	34
mid-2011	797	753	44
mid-2012	799	745	54
mid-2013	799	735	64
mid-2014	798	726	73
mid-2015	799	717	81
mid-2016	801	711	90
mid-2017	804	706	98
mid-2018	805	700	105
mid-2019	806	695	111
mid-2020	806	689	117
mid-2021	804	682	122
mid-2022	802	676	125
mid-2023	799	670	129
mid-2024	796	665	131
mid-2025	794	660	133
mid-2026	792	657	135
mid-2027	790	653	137
mid-2028	788	650	139
mid-2029	788	647	140
mid-2030	788	645	142
mid-2031	788	643	145

Note:
Figures may not sum due to rounding.

Community Development: Finance

Mr. Steen: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how many grants have been made annually by the Active Communities Unit since May 2006; how much that represented; and how many grants were given to anti-trafficking non-governmental organisations. [266857]

Kevin Brennan: In May 2006 the Office of the Third Sector (OTS) was created in the Cabinet Office, incorporating the responsibilities of the active communities directorate in the Home Office and the social enterprise unit in the former Department for Trade and Industry.

In 2006-07 and 2007-08 the OTS did not make any grants to anti-trafficking non- governmental organisations.

Information about 2008-09 will only be available when the Cabinet Office Annual Report and Accounts are laid before Parliament. This is expected to be before summer recess.

Death: Drugs

Dr. Gibson: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how many deaths by overdose from drugs in Class *(a)* A, *(b)* B and *(c)* C there were in the last 12 months for which figures are available. [267865]

Kevin Brennan: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the Authority to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your recent question asking how many deaths by overdose from drugs in class *(a)* A, *(b)* B and *(c)* C there were in the last 12 months for which figures are available. (267865)

The table attached provides the number of deaths where any drug in class *(a)* A, *(b)* B and *(c)* C was mentioned on the death certificate, in England and Wales, for 2007 (the latest year available).

Table 1: Number of deaths attributed to drug poisoning[1] where a drug classified to class A, B or C was mentioned on the death certificate,[2] England and Wales,[3] 2007[4]

Class	*Persons* *Deaths*
A	1,374
B	70
C	225

[1] Cause of death was defined using the International Classification of Diseases, Tenth Revision (ICD-10). Deaths were included where the underlying cause was due to drug poisoning (corresponding ICD-10 codes are shown in Box 1) and where a drug classified as A, B or C was mentioned on the death certificate.
[2] Some deaths may be counted in more than one category, for example if heroin and cannabis are recorded on the death certificate the death will be counted once under class A and once under class B.
[3] Figures include deaths of non residents.
[4] Figures are for deaths registered in 2007.

Box 1. International Classification of Diseases, Ninth Revision (ICD-9) and Tenth Revision (ICD-10) codes used to define drug-related poisoning deaths by underlying cause

Description	*ICD-10*
Mental and behavioural disorders due to drug use (excluding alcohol and tobacco)	F11-F16, F18-F19
Accidental poisoning by drugs, medicaments and biological substances	X40-X44
Intentional self-poisoning by drugs, medicaments and biological substances	X60-X64
Assault by drugs, medicaments and biological substances	X85
Poisoning by drugs, medicaments and biological substances, undetermined intent	Y10-Y14

Death: Malnutrition

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster for how many deaths of people in each age group malnutrition was given as a cause of death in each of the last 10 years. [267439]

Kevin Brennan: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the Authority to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated March 2009:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your recent question asking for how many deaths of people in each age group malnutrition was given as a cause of death in each of the last 10 years. (267439)

The attached table provides the numbers of deaths in each age group where malnutrition or effects of hunger were mentioned on the death certificate, in England and Wales, for the years 1998 to 2007 (the latest year available).

Table 1. Deaths from malnutrition and effects of hunger[1], by age group, England and Wales[2], 1998 to 2007[3]

Age group	*1998*	*1999*	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*
										Deaths (persons)
Under 1	1	2	5	3	2	2	2	0	2	4

Table 1. Deaths from malnutrition and effects of hunger[1], by age group, England and Wales[2], 1998 to 2007[3]

Deaths (persons)

Age group	*1998*	*1999*	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*
01-04	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
05-09	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
10-14	0	0	0	0	0	0'	0	1	0	2
15-19	3	0	2	4	1	2	0	0	2	1
20-24	1	3	2	2	1	2	1	0	0	0
25-29	3	2	3	3	3	1	2	2	0	3
30-34	5	4	3	2	4	6	1	4	2	5
35-39	3	2	7	6	6	2	5	4	7	8
40-44	8	5	5	5	5	8	4	4	7	8
45-49	9	12	10	6	9	12	14	11	9	22
50-54	12	10	9	10	11	15	14	12	21	14
55-59	10	16	13	8	18	14	12	16	22	25
60-64	11	20	22	8	9	26	15	20	17	27
65-69	27	28	27	17	23	15	21	16	32	24
70-74	32	43	32	19	31	24	24	36	35	22
75-79	46	44	55	40	38	44	46	39	52	49
80-84	60	66	41	42	53	36	50	55	40	60
85+	102	93	88	72	80	71	70	60	88	82
Total	334	351	325	236	294	280	282	280	344	353

[1] Cause of death was defined using the International Classification of Diseases, Ninth Revision (ICD-9) codes 260-269 (malnutrition) and E904.1 (effects of hunger) for the years 1998 to 2000, and the International Classification of Diseases, Tenth Revision (ICD-10) codes E40-E46 (malnutrition) and T73.0 (effects of hunger) for 2001 onwards. Deaths were included where one of these causes was mentioned anywhere on the death certificate. The introduction of ICD-10 in 2001 means that the numbers of deaths from each cause before 2001 are not completely comparable with later years.

[2] Figures include deaths of non-residents.

[3] Figures are for deaths registered in each calendar year.

Departmental Energy

Greg Clark: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how much *(a)* electricity, *(b)* gas and *(c)* other fuel was used by (i) the Cabinet Office and (ii) each of its agencies in each of the last 10 years. [267323]

Kevin Brennan: The Cabinet Office introduced comprehensive utility monitoring arrangements in 2004-05. Accurate data are not available prior to this period. Complete information for the current financial year will not be available until the accounts are closed.

			KWh
	Gas	*Electricity*	*Whitehall district heating system (WDHS)*
2004-05	n/a	9,776.640	3,369.778
2005-06	2,440.610	10,490.545	4,554.737
2006-07	4,394.090	11,125.531	3,013.634
2007-08	2,966.985	10,222.068	3,474.356

Departmental Recycling

Mr. Rob Wilson: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how much and what proportion of its waste *(a)* his Department and *(b)* the Prime Minister's Office recycled in each of the last five years. [266617]

Kevin Brennan: The Prime Minister's Office forms an integral part of the Cabinet Office. The Cabinet Office's total facilities management (TFM) contract is with EcovertFM.

The Cabinet Office began recording comprehensive waste data in 2002-03. The weight and proportion of waste recycled by the Cabinet Office over the last five years is shown in the table:

-	*Total waste recycled (tonnes)*	*Proportion recycled (percentage)*
2003-04	607.75	51.63
2004-05	808.12	56.09
2005-06	798.50	59.68
2006-07	682.03	64.98
2007-08	665.64	64.16

Employment

Mr. Frank Field: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster pursuant to the Answer of 9 March 2009, *Official Report*, columns 1666-7W, on employment, how many and what proportion of *(a)* UK born UK nationals, *(b)* non-UK born UK nationals, *(c)* UK born non-UK nationals and *(d)* non-UK born non-UK nationals there were in the working population in each year since 1997. [267739]

Kevin Brennan: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the Authority to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated March 2009:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question asking pursuant to the Answer of 9 March 2009, Official Report, columns 1666-7W, on employment, how many and what proportion of (a) UK born UK nationals, (b) non-UK born UK nationals, (c) UK born non-UK nationals and (d) non-UK born non-UK nationals there were in the working population in each year since 1997. (267739)

The requested information is shown in the attached table.

The estimates are derived from the Labour Force Survey. As with any sample survey, estimates from the LFS are subject to a margin of uncertainty. This is assessed in a footnote to the table.

The figures in the table are derived from the LFS microdata which are weighted using the official population estimates published in autumn 2007. Consequently the 2007 and 2008 estimates are not entirely consistent with the figures published in the monthly Labour Market Statistics First Release, or the non-UK born employment figures published every quarter, which are weighted using more up-to-date population estimates.

People aged 16 and over in employment by nationality and country of birth, three month period ending December, 1997-2008 United Kingdom, not seasonally adjusted

	UK born UK nationals		Non-UK born UK nationals		UK born non-UK nationals		Non-UK born non-UK nationals	
	Number (thousand)	*As a percentage of all people in employment*	*Number (thousand)*	*As a percentage of all people in employment*	*Number (thousand)*	*As a percentage of all people in employment*	*Number (thousand)*	*As a percentage of all people in employment*
1997	24,664	92	1,025	4	—	—	988	4
1998	24,861	92	1,093	4	—	—	1,047	4
1999	25,240	92	1,074	4	—	—	1,046	4
2000	25,325	92	1,066	4	—	—	1,200	4
2001	25,464	91	1,125	4	—	—	1,258	4
2002	25,500	91	1,178	4	—	—	1,354	5
2003	25,734	91	1,164	4	—	—	1,376	5
2004	25,838	90	1,226	4	—	—	1,505	6
2005	25,825	90	1,290	5	—	—	1,709	6
2006	25,792	88	1,347	5	37	0	1,971	7
2007	25,644	88	1,427	5	—	—	2,077	7
2008[1]	*25,563	87	*1,466	5	****		*2,354	8

— Sample size too small for reliable estimates.

[1] Coefficients of Variation have been calculated as an indication of the quality of the estimates, as described below.

Guide to Quality

The Coefficient of Variation (CV) indicates the quality of an estimate, the smaller the CV value the higher the quality. The true value is likely to be within +/- twice the CV—for example, for an estimate of 200 with a CV of 5 per cent. we would expect the population total to be within the range 180-220.

Key Coefficient of Variation (CV) (%) Statistical Robustness

* 0 ≤ CV < 5 Estimates are considered precise

** 5 ≤ CV < 10 Estimates are considered reasonably precise

*** 10 ≤ CV < 20 Estimates are considered acceptable

**** CV ≥20 Estimates are considered too unreliable for practical purposes and have not been provided

Note:

It should be noted that the above estimates exclude people in most types of communal establishment (e.g. hotels, boarding houses, hostels, mobile home sites etc.)

Source:

Labour Force Survey

Energy: Conservation

Greg Clark: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what estimate he has made of the number of people employed in green industries in the UK. [266613]

Joan Ruddock: I have been asked to reply.

Independent consultants commissioned by DBERR estimate that there were 881,300 people employed in the low carbon and environmental goods and services sector in the UK during 2007-08.

The full report is available on the BERR website.

Unemployment: Essex

Bob Spink: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what the average rate of unemployment was in *(a)* Castle Point and *(b)* Essex in each of the last five years; and if he will make a statement. [267055]

Kevin Brennan: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the Authority to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated March 2009:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question asking what the average rate of unemployment was in (a) Castle Point and (b) Essex in each of the last five years. (267055)

The Office for National Statistics (ONS) compiles unemployment statistics for local areas from the Annual Population Survey (APS) and its predecessor the annual Labour Force Survey (LFS), following International Labour Organisation (ILO) definitions.

Reliable estimates for the Castle Point parliamentary constituency are not available due to small sample sizes.

Estimates have been provided for Essex for the 12 month period ending February 2004 from the annual LFS, and for the 12 month periods ending in March for 2005 to 2008 from the APS. An estimate has also been provided for the 12 month period ending June 2008, which is the latest period for which figures for local areas are available. The level of unemployment has also been provided for the latest period, in order to attach an indication of the quality of the estimates.

As these estimates are for a subset of the population in small geographical areas, they are based on small sample sizes, and are therefore subject to large margins of uncertainty.

Table 1: Percentage[1] of unemployed persons resident in Castle Point and Essex

12 months ending	*Percentage Essex*	*Thousand Essex*
February 2004	3.5	—
March 2005	3.9	—
March 2006	3.7	—
March 2007	3.8	—
March 2008	4.5	—

Table 1. Percentage[1] of unemployed persons resident in Castle Point and Essex

12 months ending	Percentage Essex	Thousand Essex
June 2008[2]	4.6	***33

'..' = unavailable or not reliable

[1] Unemployed as a percentage of the economically active population

[2] Coefficients of Variation have been calculated for the latest period as an indication of the quality of the estimates. See Guide to Quality

Guide to Quality:

The Coefficient of Variation (CV) indicates the quality of an estimate, the smaller the CV value the higher the quality. The true value is likely to lie within +/- twice the CV—for example, for an estimate of 200 with a CV of 5 per cent. we would expect the population total to be within the range 180-220.

Key Coefficient of Variation (CV) (%) Statistical Robustness

* 0 ≤ CV < 5 Estimates are considered precise

** 5 ≤ CV < 10 Estimates are considered reasonably precise

*** 10 ≤ CV < 20 Estimates are considered acceptable

**** CV ≥ 20 Estimates are considered too unreliable for practical purposes

Source:

Annual Population Survey/Annual Labour Force Survey

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Business Improvement Districts

Mr. Burstow: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer of 12 March 2009, *Official Report*, columns 726-30W, on business improvement districts, when each business improvement district (BID) was first approved; how many times each BID has been re-approved; what the result of each ballot held on BID approval has been; for what purposes each BID was established; how much revenue each BID has generated since its establishment; and if she will make a statement. [illegible]

John Healey: The following BIDs have been re-approved for a second term:

Reading

Bristol

Paddington

Liverpool

Coventry City Centre

New West End Company

Heart of London

Government do not hold the other information requested.

The National BIDs Advisory Service provided by the Association for Town Centre Management publishes BID ballot results which are available at:

www.ukbids.org/

Coastal Areas

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what her Department's definition of a principal seaside town is; and whether this category is sub-divided. [266822]

Mr. Khan: The definition of a principal seaside town is provided within "England's Seaside Towns: A 'benchmarking' study", which was commissioned by CLG and published in November 2008. Although the Department uses the definition of the 37 principal seaside towns for analytical purposes, it is not restricted to using this definition for either analytical or policy purposes.

These seaside towns are accurately defined at ward level, generally by their built-up area, which have also been accurately matched to lower super output areas (LSOAs) and have a population of at least 10,000. No sub-divisions of this definition are employed.

Community Relations

Patrick Mercer: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government with reference to the Prevent strand of Project Contest, in which boroughs the Pan-London Somali Youth Forum is operating; how much each borough implementing the forum project was allocated in 2007-08; what the budget is for the project for 2008-09; and what mechanisms are in place to assess whether the Pan-London Somali Youth Forum is effective in preventing radicalisation amongst Somali youths. [263170]

Mr. Coaker: I have been asked to reply.

The Home Office has made a grant of £57,511 available to the Metropolitan Police Service (MPS) in 2008-09 to support the Pan-London Somali Youth Forum project as part of the Prevent strategy.

The Metropolitan Police Service is working with the Pan-London Somali Youth Forum so that it will have a representative from 16 London boroughs: Barnet, Bromley, Camden, Ealing, Greenwich, Hammersmith and Fulham, Hackney, Haringey, Harrow, Hounslow, Islington, Kensington and Chelsea, Lambeth, Southwark, Tower Hamlets and Wandsworth.

The Home Office is monitoring progress under the terms of the grant agreement with the MPS.

Mr. Dhanda: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether her Department has plans to rename the Preventing Violent Extremism programme. [267682]

Mr. Khan: There are no plans to rename the Preventing Violent Extremism Programme. We are in constant dialogue with communities on how this programme is developed and taken forward.

Community Relations: Finance

Mr. Dhanda: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the budget for Preventing Violent Extremism projects is for 2009-10. [267487]

Mr. Khan: The Department has allocated £27.5 million on Prevent-related projects in the financial year 2009-10. In addition, other Government Departments will be supporting projects in this area, principally the Home Office which plans to spend £34 million in 2009-10.

Council Housing: Cambridgeshire

Mr. Paice: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the level of Housing Revenue Account subsidy in *(a)* East Cambridgeshire District Council area and *(b)* South Cambridgeshire District Council area is; and how many households in social housing there are in each of those areas. [265656]

Mr. Iain Wright: East Cambridgeshire district council's housing stock was subject to a large scale voluntary transfer to a Registered Social Landlord (RSL) on 31 March 1993. They do not therefore operate a housing revenue account. It is currently estimated that South Cambridgeshire need to make negative housing revenue account subsidy payments of £11,851,560 for 2008-09.

Communities and Local Government does not collect data on the number of households in social housing, but the level of social housing stock in each council's area is shown in the following table:

Social housing stock as at 1 April 2008

	Council housing	*RSL housing*
East Cambridgeshire	—	4,959
South Cambridgeshire	5,542	2,250

Council Housing: Waiting Lists

Mr. Waterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many people are on local authority housing waiting lists in *(a)* Eastbourne and *(b)* East Sussex; and what the equivalent figures were (i) five and (ii) 10 years ago. [267210]

Mr. Iain Wright: Local authorities in England report the numbers of households on their housing waiting list as at 1 April in their annual Housing Strategy Statistical Appendix returns. Information on local authority housing waiting lists is collected in respect of households rather than individuals. The number of households on the local authority housing waiting lists in all local authorities including Eastbourne and East Sussex is given in the following table:

	1999	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*
South East	111,425	115,901	129,924	129,234	146,880	168,725	181,196	195,700	208,419	203,161
Bracknell Forest UA	1,308	1,302	1,331	1,413	1,604	2,812	3,019	4,076	4,067	4,122
Brighton and Hove UA	3,610	3,168	3,304	3,274	4,307	7,500	8,056	8,056	10,667	9,046
Isle of Wight UA	1,122	1,475	1,451	1,609	2,403	2,865	3,967	3,508	4,955	4,388
Medway UA	3,708	4,570	7,624	3,462	7,452	8,039	6,544	11,870	8,338	7,885
Milton Keynes UA	2,835	1,733	3,173	2,482	3,490	2,951	4,180	3,534	3,973	0
Portsmouth UA	4,759	4,309	4,838	4,810	5,525	8,960	7,965	6,661	6,751	4,562
Reading UA	3,343	3,827	4,348	3,160	3,231	3,428	4,330	5,162	5,242	4,504
Slough UA	1,739	1,931	2,225	2,097	1,945	2,437	3,190	3,759	3,909	3,700
Southampton UA	3,699	4,522	5,148	5,811	6,697	8,128	9,225	11,126	10,117	11,662
West Berkshire UA	887	781	1,014	1,008	1,640	1,820	2,242	2,785	2,893	4,259
Windsor and Maidenhead UA	2,419	2,363	2,375	2,301	2,357	2,418	2,353	1,690	1,674	1,922
Wokingham UA	1,359	1,497	1,851	2,564	2,372	2,457	2,116	2,294	2,699	3,036
Buckinghamshire	3,568	3,523	3,751	4,153	4,783	5,494	5,774	7,299	8,084	7,830
Aylesbury Vale	841	785	842	965	1,165	1,394	1,804	2,191	2,545	2,899
Chiltern	667	631	698	763	1,034	1,182	967	1,125	1,207	1,130
South Bucks	1,064	1,030	1,115	1,102	1,120	1,161	917	1,641	1,787	1,701
Wycombe	996	1,077	1,096	1,323	1,464	1,757	2,086	2,342	2,545	2,100
East Sussex	6,096	6,777	7,711	7,100	9,044	10,026	10,497	10,969	12,416	11,068
Eastbourne	1,753	2,184	2,596	2,041	2,806	3,000	3,354	4,481	5,225	3,404
Hastings	1,490	1,763	1,921	1,734	1,866	1,482	1,575	1,296	2,175	1,730
Lewes	818	818	872	809	927	1,203	1,312	1,485	2,041	2,207
Rother	1,176	1,138	1,383	1,539	1,825	2,387	2,037	1,398	1,362	1,542
Wealden	859	874	939	977	1,620	1,954	2,219	2,309	1,613	2,185
Hampshire	19,127	22,070	22,634	24,071	24,558	28,635	30,357	32,361	39,846	37,905
Basingstoke and Deane	4,245	4,046	4,652	4,281	4,497	4,761	4,937	5,083	5,543	5,633
East Hampshire	1,828	2,403	1,789	1,890	2,238	2,115	2,229	2,890	2,763	2,153
Eastleigh	1,200	1,361	1,481	1,623	3,424	4,446	4,515	5,014	5,528	5,604
Fareham	929	1,184	1,152	1,146	1,625	2,353	735	1,448	1,158	1,717
Gosport	1,167	1,190	1,204	1,375	1,412	1,668	1,833	2,013	2,997	3,076
Hart	588	645	816	923	970	1,074	1,163	1,344	1,267	1,882
Havant	2,714	3,264	3,735	3,138	2,349	2,480	2,256	2,202	4,198	4,232
New Forest	1,383	1,672	1,615	2,686	2,428	3,339	3,891	4,241	4,969	5,228
Rushmoor	2,221	3,616	3,514	4,101	2,109	3,264	4,151	3,634	5,693	3,102

	1999	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*
Test Valley	1,723	1,611	1,440	1,645	2,109	2,092	2,698	2,885	3,925	3,048
Winchester	1,129	1,138	1,236	1,263	1,237	1,043	1,949	1,607	2,205	2,230
Kent	19,738	20,385	21,042	23,257	24,875	26,502	29,833	30,706	28,543	30,523
Ashford	2,201	2,151	1,691	1,438	2,077	2,665	2,402	1,174	1,508	1,762
Canterbury	1,920	2,164	2,185	2,738	2,484	2,814	3,330	3,039	3,398	3,758
Dartford	1,575	1,557	1,704	2,042	1,997	2,582	2,652	3,728	3,502	3,225
Dover	2,231	2,186	1,998	1,895	1,888	1,850	2,229	2,534	2,869	3,033
Gravesham	1,847	906	1,173	1,291	1,439	2,085	1,977	2,141	1,479	1,610
Maidstone	959	926	1,756	1,512	2,173	1,254	2,562	1,764	2,079	2,290
Sevenoaks	1,444	1,377	1,534	1,475	1,613	1,736	2,160	2,625	1,132	916
Shepway	2,595	2,759	2,144	3,027	2,539	1,886	2,311	2,652	2,213	2,118
Swale	2,106	2,461	2,215	2,070	2,545	3,328	3,805	4,111	3,352	4,432
Thanet	1,528	1,997	2,356	3,444	3,659	3,242	3,419	3,904	3,757	3,255
Tonbridge and Malling	658	920	1,168	1,330	1,460	1,913	1,727	1,897	1,858	2,350
Tunbridge Wells	674	981	1,028	995	1,081	1,147	1,179	1,447	1,396	1,774
Oxfordshire	10,381	10,520	11,824	12,539	14,256	14,821	14,163	14,590	14,433	13,926
Cherwell	2,422	2,520	2,676	2,560	3,023	2,450	3,767	3,436	3,415	3,072
Oxford	3,099	3,121	3,378	3,217	3,572	3,991	3,525	3,816	3,965	3,313
South Oxfordshire	1,488	1,836	2,244	2,354	2,270	2,169	2,043	2,253	1,719	1,770
Vale of White Horse	1,919	1,802	2,292	2,698	3,313	3,717	1,981	2,817	3,185	3,640
West Oxfordshire	1,453	1,241	1,234	1,710	2,078	2,494	2,847	2,228	2,149	2,131
Surrey	13,774	12,775	13,635	13,797	15,577	16,867	19,080	19,591	23,337	25,517
Elmbridge	1,976	1,317	1,839	1,704	1,901	1,894	2,054	2,286	2,242	2,066
Epsom and Ewell	537	526	427	462	525	659	382	677	962	1,165
Guildford	1,603	1,802	1,806	1,698	1,902	2,100	2,247	2,455	2,802	2,898
Mole Valley	1,177	1,089	1,211	1,372	1,620	1,357	1,318	1,805	1,933	2,373
Reigate and Banstead	1,155	1,164	1,136	1,062	1,173	1,391	1,751	2,073	2,563	2,540
Runnymede	694	725	427	383	945	1,502	1,715	851	1,493	1,964
Spelthorne	2,384	2,538	2,571	2,681	2,767	2,865	3,314	2,983	3,552	4,494
Surrey Heath	436	525	529	528	536	681	1,174	1,512	1,583	1,757
Tandridge	1,077	806	816	825	836	1,122	1,272	1,107	1,220	1,350
Waverley	1,298	1,066	1,201	1,269	1,389	1,569	1,680	1,719	1,743	2,267
Woking	1,087	1,226	1,672	1,813	1,983	1,647	2,173	2,203	3,266	2,603
West Sussex	7,953	8,293	10,645	10,326	10,764	12,565	14,305	15,703	16,475	17,226
Adur	1,162	853	1,060	873	1,262	1,551	1,888	1,711	1,520	1,548
Arun	689	834	852	933	905	1,385	2,309	2,309	3,882	3,318
Chichester	2,148	2,106	2,187	2,220	2,167	2,280	2,126	2,762	2,678	3,779
Crawley	465	633	2,046	1,755	1,930	2,250	2,208	2,562	2,445	2,909
Horsham	710	988	1,154	1,262	1,450	1,434	1,437	1,506	1,613	1,204
Mid Sussex	1,418	1,494	1,407	1,468	1,476	2,027	2,121	2,113	2,176	2,313
Worthing	1,361	1,465	1,939	1,815	1,574	1,648	2,216	2,662	2,361	2,465

Note:
As reported by local authorities. As at 1st April.
Source:
Housing Strategy Statistical Appendix (HSSA) return.

Further information on the number of households on the local authority housing waiting lists for England, can be found in the statistical release "Local Authority Housing Statistics England: 2007-08: Housing Strategy Statistical Appendix (HSSA) and Business Plan Statistical Appendix (BPSA)" This was published on 22 January 2009 on the Communities and Local Government website at:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/corporate/statistics/lahousing200708

Additionally information on the number of households on local authority housing waiting lists broken down by Government office region and for every local authority including the percentage of households this represents, is published on the Communities and Local Government website in Table 600 at:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/documents/housing/xls/table600.xls

Copies of the statistical release and live table have been deposited in the Library.

Not everyone on the waiting list is necessarily in urgent housing need. The waiting list includes those who consider social housing as their preferred or one of a number of housing options, and those who decide to get onto the waiting list ladder before they need or want to move house—particularly where the priority system is heavily based on waiting time. The size of the waiting list is not an indicator of absolute need, it is only useful as a broad indicator of housing demand in an area.

Departmental Manpower

Justine Greening: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many *(a)* permanent, *(b)* agency and *(c)* temporary staff on contracts of (i) up to three months, (ii) between three and six months, (iii) between six and 12 months and (iv) 12 months or more there are in each directorate of her Department. [264306]

Mr. Khan: Communities and Local Government currently has the following number of permanent, agency and temporary staff on contracts up to and over 12 months:

Sum of FTE

Type of staff	*Contract period* *0-3 months*	*3-6 months*	*6-12 months*	*12+ months*	*Grand total*
Agency	42	43	53	42	180
Permanent	1	—	5	7.28	13.28
Temporary	6.68	4	26	7	43.68
Grand total	49.68	47	84	56.28	236.96

Detailed information on each directorate could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Further details of staff employment are published in the Department's annual reports.

Departmental Procurement

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government with reference to the answer of 6 October 2008, *Official Report*, column 304W, on departmental procurement, if she will place in the Library a copy of the invoices for the expenditure at Majestic Wine Warehouse Ltd; and for what purpose the expenditure was incurred. [251955]

Mr. Khan: The expenditure was incurred for the purposes of official hospitality for a number of events. For reasons of commercial confidentiality it is not normal practice to make public copies of invoices.

Departmental Public Expenditure

Dr. Cable: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what her latest estimate is of her Department's capital expenditure in *(a)* 2008-09, *(b)* 2009-10, *(c)* 2010-11 and *(d)* 2011-12; and if she will make a statement. [268115]

Mr. Khan: The Department's capital expenditure for the requested years is as follows:

Departmental expenditure limit	*Capital (£ million)*
Forecast	
2008-09	7,125
Budget	
2009-10	8,413
2010-11	6,005

The budget for 2011-12 will be fixed in the next spending review.

Departmental Publications

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what estimate she has made of the *(a)* production and printing and *(b)* other costs to her Department of producing its most recent (i) departmental annual report and (ii) autumn performance report. [266698]

Mr. Khan: The Department's annual report 2008 cost £38,652 plus VAT to design and print. Our autumn performance report 2008 was produced as an online document only and cost £2,305 plus VAT.

Departmental Standards

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what estimate she has made of the cost to her Department of measuring compliance with its targets under its public service agreements in the last 12 months for which figures are available. [266570]

Mr. Khan: Public service agreements cover a wide range of the Department's business; costs associated with measuring compliance are not separately identified but are incorporated within individual workstreams focusing on delivery. Drawing together this information would be possible only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Training

Mr. Hands: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer of 9 February 2009, *Official Report*, column 1689W, on departmental training, which Ministers took advice on *(a)* continuing professional development and *(b)* speeches; and what the cost was in each case. [265677]

Mr. Khan: The training referred to in my earlier answer of 9 February 2009, *Official Report*, column 1689W, was: advice on continuing professional development; and advice on speeches; and cost in total £650 and £2,115 respectively. Identifying Ministers who undertake training would, or would be likely to, discourage participation in future training sessions, acting as a disincentive for Ministers to undertake formal professional development.

Fire Services

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many *(a)* uniformed and *(b)* non-uniformed fire service personnel there were in each (i) fire brigade and (ii) region in each year since 2000. [267513]

Mr. Khan: These data are published annually in the Fire and Rescue Service Operational Statistics Bulletin and can be found on the Department's website at:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/fire/researchandstatistics/firestatistics/firerescue/

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the cost has been including value added tax and expenses, of consultants working on the FireLink Project since the start of the project. [267514]

Mr. Khan: For the period August 2002 to February 2009 the cost of consultant services for the FireLink project has been £36.88 million.

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the timetables are for the implementation of the data capture and migration toolkit in each fire brigade in each region; and if she will make a statement. [267515]

Mr. Khan: The first part of the data capture and migration toolkit was rolled out to those Fire and Rescue Services who requested it by the end of February 2009 (some 40 fire brigades in total). The next phase of the data capture toolkit is under development and will be released later this year, in discussion with the Fire and Rescue Services.

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the current planned date is for each fire brigade to cut over to each regional control centre; and if she will make a statement. [267516]

Mr. Khan: I refer to the answer I gave my hon. Friend the hon. Member for Hendon (Mr. Dismore) on 11 December 2008, *Official Report*, columns 248-50W, setting out the revised cut over schedule.

First Time Buyers

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what estimate she has made of the number of first-time home buyers in each year since 1997. [266340]

Mr. Iain Wright: The numbers of first time buyers purchasing a home with a mortgage in the UK in each year since 1997 are presented as follows:

	Number of first time buyers purchasing with a mortgage, UK
1997	501,500
1998	525,200
1999	592,400
2000	500,200
2001	568,200
2002	531,800
2003	369,600
2004	358,100
2005	372,300
2006	401,000
2007	357,800
2008	194,400

Source:
Council of Mortgage Lenders

CML estimate that around one in five first time buyers are actually returning to owner-occupation after a break.

We are ensuring support is in place to help first-time buyers. We have:

Increased opportunities to buy a home through shared equity and shared ownership—our schemes are now open to anyone earning up to £60,000 who would not otherwise be able to afford to buy.

Now allocated £236 million to purchase nearly 6,000 unsold properties to be used as affordable and social housing.

Helped more than 110,000 households into home ownership since 1997 through our shared ownership and shared equity schemes.

Launched our £400 million HomeBuy Direct scheme, which will help up to 18,000 first time buyers across the country.

Housing Associations: Finance

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what estimate she has made of the number of housing associations in need of financial assistance in the most recent period for which figures are available; and if she will make a statement. [266486]

Mr. Iain Wright: The Tenant Services Authority carries out annual reviews of housing associations' financial position and grades each organisation on a scale of 1 to 4 as follows:

1—Satisfactory
2—Satisfactory, but areas of exposure noted
3—Concerns
4—Serious concerns

All but six associations have so far received a grading of 1 or 2. The other six associations are graded at 3 and no organisation is graded 4. The TSA is working closely with all six organisations to resolve their issues and is hopeful of a successful resolution of the issues in each case.

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what recent discussions she has had with *(a)* the Chancellor of the Exchequer and *(b)* banks in which the Government has purchased a holding on (i) the level of lending to housing associations and (ii) the interest rates at which those banks lend to housing associations. [266502]

Mr. Iain Wright: Ministers from the Department are meeting regularly with their HM Treasury counterparts to discuss these issues, and officials are also in regular communication with HM Treasury, the Council of Mortgage Lenders, and individual lenders to discuss the issue of lending to housing associations.

Communities and Local Government officials are also engaged in ongoing discussions with HM Treasury on the lending agreements signed by banks participating in the Government's Asset Protection Scheme.

Housing Market

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much her Department spent against its Objective 4 to deliver a better balance between housing supply and demand in each of the last five years; and what each figure represents in 2008-09 prices. [265076]

Mr. Iain Wright: £11,259 billion was spent between 2003-04 and 2007-08 by the Department. The figures for each year in cash terms and in 2008-9 prices are shown in the following table.

£ billion

	Actuals	*2009-09 prices*
2003-04	1.937	2.218
2004-05	2.087	2.326
2005-06	2.098	2.291
2006-07	2.452	2.608
2007-08	2.685	2.772
Total	11.259	12.215

Expenditure has been converted to 2008-09 prices using the GDP deflator as published by HM Treasury. This deflator is calculated from Office for National Statistics data for seasonally adjusted current and constant price GDP for years up to 2007-08. 2008-09 is derived from HM Treasury forecasts for GDP deflator increases at the Pre-Budget Report 2008.

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what research has been commissioned by her Department on likely changes in housing *(a)* need and *(b)* demand arising during the recession; and if she will make a statement. [265096]

Mr. Iain Wright: The Department has commissioned Heriot-Watt university to produce a new analytical model that will improve our capacity to estimate the number and type of households with some form of housing related need. We expect the housing need analytical model to be in use within Communities and Local Government by autumn 2009.

The CLG affordability model was developed in response to the Barker Review of Housing Supply in 2004. This model has been updated to reflect the tighter credit conditions we are seeing. We are also updating it currently to include the latest CLG households projections published in March 2009.

Both of these analytical models are designed primarily to assess the impact of important long-term drivers of need and demand, such as demographic change. They will also be valuable tools in understanding the near term impact of the economic downturn on housing need and demand.

Housing: Crime Prevention

Derek Twigg: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) what proportion of new homes constructed met the minimum levels of security set out in the Sustainable and Secure Buildings Act 2004 since 2004; [267223]

(2) what account will be taken of making buildings more resistant to crime in the next revision of building regulations. [267224]

Mr. Iain Wright: The Sustainable and Secure Buildings Act 2004 contains no provisions on minimum levels of security for new homes; it simply amended the Building Act 1984 to give power to make building regulations for the purpose of furthering the prevention and detection of crime. This power has not been used.

Security of homes is, however, part of the Code on Sustainable Homes. Under this code, developers can gain credits for security if they consult an architectural liaison officer or crime prevention design advisor in the local police force and their recommendations are incorporated in the design of the home. To date these credits have been included in over 90 per cent. of all code homes.

There are no current plans to include making buildings more resistant to crime in the next revision of the Building Regulations but consideration will be given for future revisions.

Derek Twigg: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what steps have been taken to implement the provisions of the Sustainable and Secure Buildings Act 2004. [267225]

Mr. Iain Wright: The provisions of the Sustainable and Secure Buildings Act 2004 mainly amended the Building Act 1984 to allow building regulations to be made for more purposes than previously. A number of the powers have been used to make building regulations since the 2004 Act came into force, in particular in respect of the energy efficiency provisions of the building regulations. This Department has publicly consulted on proposals for the provisions in the Act on local authority registers of information, certification of work, and appointed persons and management of works and is considering how best to proceed.

The Act also requires a biennial report on the building stock in England and Wales, with particular reference to energy efficiency and sustainability, to be made to Parliament. The first report covering the period November 2004 to November 2006 was made in February 2007. A second report, covering the period November 2006 to November 2008, is currently being prepared.

Housing: Low Incomes

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much her Department and its predecessors have spent on the provision of affordable housing in each year since 1997; and what forecast she has made of such expenditure in each year to 2011, at 2008-09 prices. [266317]

Mr. Iain Wright: The table shows spend by the Homes and Communities Agency through the Affordable Housing Programme from 1997-98 to 2007-08.

	£ million
1997-98	727
1998-99	732
1999-2000	815
2000-01	830
2001-02	823
2002-03	1,030
2003-04	1,805
2004-05	1,624
2005-06	1,598
2006-07	1,923
2007-08	2,004

The indicative allocations for 2009-10 and 2010-11 for the AHP are £3.5 billion and £2.3 billion respectively. At 2008-09 prices these would be £3.43 billion and £2.21 billion respectively.

Expenditure that may be made by local authorities using their resources from CLG to provide affordable housing has not been included.

Housing: Standards

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much her Department plans to spend on improving the supply and quality of housing in *(a)* 2008-09, *(b)* 2009-10 and *(c)* 2010-11 in (i) cash terms and (ii) 2008-09 prices. [265082]

Mr. Iain Wright: £11.5 billion, with the breakdown by financial year shown in the following table, will be allocated to deliver supply and quality of housing during the current comprehensive spending review period. The Government announced packages of measures in May, July, September, the pre-Budget report and at the Queen's Speech, to address the current conditions and long-term challenges facing the housing market. This includes £550 million brought forward from the 2010-11 budgets to 2008-09 and 2009-10 from within the national Affordable Housing Programme for social rented housing. This funding is expected to provide an additional 7,500 homes over the next 18 months.

		£ billion
	Budgets	*In 2008-09 prices*
2008-09	3.507	3.507
2009-10	4.556	4.489
2010-11	3.469	3.326
Total	11.532	11.322

If the £11.5 billion is expressed in 2008-09 prices, this equates to around £11.3 billion. Conversion to 2008-9 prices has been done using the GDP deflator as published by HMT. Years 2008-09 to 2010-11 are derived from HM Treasury forecasts for GDP deflator increases at the pre-Budget report 2008.

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many homes which did not meet the Decent Homes Standard there were in *(a)* housing association stock, *(b)* local authority stock and *(c)* the private rented sector in each year since 1997. [266515]

Mr. Iain Wright *[holding answer 26 March 2009]*: The Department for Communities and Local Government uses estimates from the English House Condition Survey to compare the condition of homes of different tenures. The survey reported every five years up and including 2001 and annually from 2003.

The Decent Homes standard was updated in 2006 when the introduction of the Housing Health and Safety Rating System replaced the Fitness Standard as the statutory tool for assessing housing conditions. Figures based on the updated definition from 2006 are not comparable with those based on the original definition.

The information requested is provided in the following table. 2008 estimates from the survey will be available in 2010.

Number of homes not meeting the Decent Homes standard in the private and social rented sectors, 1996-2007

	Private rented	*Local authority*	*Housing association*
Original definition of standard			
1996	1,246,000	1,869,000	448,000
2001	1,101,000	1,174,000	472,000
2003	1,056,000	975,000	467,000
2004	994,000	816,000	437,000
2005	1,003,000	729,000	433,000
2006	1,055,000	695,000	436,000
Updated definition of standard			
2006	1,223,000	676,000	465,000
2007	1,244,000	652,000	486,000

Note:

Figures under the Original definition include the Fitness Standard as the statutory criterion of the standard; figures under the updated definition include the Housing Health and Safety Rating System as the statutory criterion.

Source:

English House Condition Survey.

Local Government Finance

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) how much funding her Department has provided to local authorities in social housing grant in each region in each year since 1997; [266472]

(2) how much funding her Department has provided to local authorities in social housing grant payments in each year since 1997 at 2008-09 prices. [266473]

Mr. Iain Wright: The Homes and Communities Agency has not paid social housing grant direct to local authorities and has only had the power to do so since the Housing Act 2004. This allowed organisations other than housing associations to bid for social housing grant, the main capital subsidy for new housing. Arms Length Management Organisations (ALMO) have been able to qualify through the pre-qualification process to bid for SHG from April 2008.

In September 2008, we announced that we would invite councils to bid to the HCA for social housing grant on the same basis as ALMOs and special purpose vehicles. We are also consulting on changes to council housing finance rules which would allow councils to keep the full income and capital returns on any investment they make in new council housing. The revenue and capital changes would help councils put together viable bids for social housing grant from the HCA. These changes should result in an increase in building by councils.

Mobile Homes

Dr. Richard Taylor: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what definition of a caravan is used in relation to decisions under planning regulations. [264841]

Mr. Iain Wright: Section 29(1) of the Caravan Sites and Control of Development Act 1960 (the 1960 Act) defines, in brief, a caravan as:

> "any structure designed or adapted for human habitation which is capable of being moved from one place to another..."

Although caravans are mobile and therefore do not constitute development, planning permission may be required for the stationing or use of a caravan if it constitutes a material change in the use of the land. Some permitted development rights relating to caravans can be found in Parts 4 and 5 of Schedule 2 to the Town and Country Planning (General Permitted Development) Order 1995, which uses the same definition of caravan as the 1960 Act.

Mobile Homes: East Sussex

Mr. Waterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many licensed sites for park homes are registered in *(a)* Eastbourne and *(b)* East Sussex. [267268]

Mr. Iain Wright: The Department does not routinely collect statistics on the number of park home sites. However, an ad hoc survey of local authorities in England carried out in 2006 suggested the following:

	Approximate number of residential park home sites
Eastbourne	3
East Sussex	20

Multiple Occupation

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what powers planning authorities have to prevent development of houses of multiple occupation. [266745]

Mr. Iain Wright: The Town and Country Planning (Use Classes) Order 1987 (as amended) is intended to be a deregulatory mechanism which removes the need for planning permission for changes between certain specified uses by grouping into classes land uses which have similar implications for local amenity. The Use Classes Order defines dwelling houses under the C3 use class as houses used by a single person, any number of persons living together as a family, or by no more than six people living together as a single household.

HMOs do not fall within any of the specified use classes, and therefore are "sui generis" (in a class of its own) in terms of use. Planning permission is needed for a change of use to or from a sui generis use. Therefore, planning permission would be needed for a proposed change of use from a private dwelling to a HMO, or if such is deemed to have occurred.

Where a planning application is required, local planning authorities will be able to assess the application against the relevant policies in their Development Plan taking into account any other material considerations.

The current definition of a dwelling house implies that up to six people living together as a single household should not, prima facie, be considered as a HMO. However local planning authorities may determine individual cases on the basis of "fact and degree" and may decide that a dwelling with fewer than six people living together other than as a single household constitutes a HMO.

Non-Domestic Rates: Business

Mr. Burstow: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what estimate she has made of the percentage change in business rates for *(a)* small and *(b)* medium-sized and large firms which will take effect in April 2009 in (i) the London Borough of Sutton and (ii) nationwide; and if she will make a statement. [266441]

John Healey: The percentage change in business rates for *(a)* small and *(b)* medium-sized and large firms which will take effect in April 2009 in (i) the London borough of Sutton and (ii) England are the same. I refer the hon. Gentleman to the answer I gave the hon. Member for Peterborough (Mr. Jackson) on 12 March 2009, *Official Report*, column 750W.

Mrs. Gillan: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if she will adjust the small business rate multiplier for 2009-10 to ensure that it is not increased above the rate of inflation. [267783]

John Healey: The small business rate multiplier for forthcoming financial years is capped by the retail price index for September of the financial year preceding.

Planning Obligations

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what recent estimate her Department has made of the proportion of affordable housing made available under section 106 agreements in each of the last three years; and what proportion of affordable housing she expects to be made available under section 106 agreements in *(a)* financial year 2008-09 and *(b)* financial year 2009-10. [266501]

Mr. Iain Wright: The following table shows the proportion of affordable homes that were provided with a section 106 agreement in England.

	Total section 106 agreements	*Total affordable homes provided*	*Proportion (percentage)*
2005-06	24,350	45,980	53
2006-07	26,570	44,570	60
2007-08	28,270	53,730	53

Information on numbers of new affordable homes provided through section 106 agreements for 2008-09 will be made available as part of CLG affordable housing statistics due to be released in December 2010. Estimates on the levels of section 106 agreements in 2009-10 are not available.

Planning Permission

Mr. Bone: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether planning policy statement 6 relating to sequential tests applies to new NHS facilities. [267705]

Mr. Khan: The sequential approach set out in Planning Policy Statement 6 does not apply to new NHS facilities (except offices).

However, Planning Policy Guidance note 13: Transport (2001) requires new health facilities to be planned so as to maximise accessibility by means of transport other than the car while at the same time providing good access arrangements for emergency vehicles. New intermediate health care facilities should, where possible, be located in town, district or local centres where they will be highly accessible by non-car modes of transport and can reinforce the range of services provided by these centres.

Planning: Horticulture

Bob Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what her policy is on the development of urban horticulture as a contribution towards climate change mitigation; and if she will make a statement. [265897]

Mr. Iain Wright: Although our policy for promoting urban horticulture is not directly linked to climate change objectives, it can have a small-scale positive benefit, for example through local sourcing of food, promotion of biodiversity, and promotion of urban green space.

We have recently provided grants of £1 million to local authorities to contribute towards the costs of training and employment for the first year of 60 additional horticulture apprenticeships. Those apprentices will play a vital role in ensuring that the quality of our urban parks and green spaces continues to improve.

Regional Planning and Development: South East

Anne Milton: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many responses have been received to the South East Plan Consultation *(a)* in total and *(b)* from people in Guildford. [267691]

Mr. Khan: A full summary of responses will accompany the final regional spatial strategy when it is published.

In response to the question:

(a) To date, 7,000 responses have generated 13,500 individual comments, and

(b) 55 per cent. of responses were received from people in Guildford.

Social Rented Housing

Susan Kramer: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what recent steps she has taken to support financially-sound small and medium-sized housing associations to obtain bank credit in order to purchase homes to meet social housing need. [266355]

Mr. Iain Wright: The Government have taken a number of steps to help ensure that appropriate credit is available to individuals and businesses, including housing associations.

The Government have agreed lending commitments with the Royal Bank of Scotland (RBS), Lloyds Banking Group and Northern Rock. RBS has committed to increasing lending by £25 billion above its baseline budget in 2009 including £16 billion for business lending and £9 billion for mortgage lending. Lloyds have committed to increase lending by £11 billion, including £8 billion for business lending and £3 billion for mortgage lending. Northern Rock has also agreed to provide £5 billion for new mortgages in 2009 and £9 billion in 2010.

My officials are also in regular communication with HM Treasury, the Council of Mortgage Lenders, and individual lenders to discuss the issue of lending to housing associations.

The Government have also provided grant funding to help housing associations purchase homes to meet social housing need. In May 2009, we announced that funding would be made available for housing associations to purchase suitable properties from developers for use as affordable housing. £236 million has now been allocated to deliver around 6,700 homes, the majority for social rent.

The Government are bringing forward from 2010-11 £550 million to provide around 7,500 social rented homes 18 months earlier than they would otherwise have been delivered. We have also given the Homes and Communities Agency increased flexibility in its use of social housing grant as part of a wider approach to stimulate new development.

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many properties financed through social housing grants have been sold by each local authority in each of the last five years. [266491]

Mr. Iain Wright: None.

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) how many registered social landlords there were in each of the last five years; and how many properties were owned by registered social landlords in each of those years; [266514]

(2) how many registered social landlords let *(a)* supported housing and *(b)* housing for older people in each of the last five years. [266478]

Mr. Iain Wright: Information from registered social landlords (RSL) on the number of properties they own and the number of RSLs providing lets to supported housing and housing for older people is collected through the Regulatory and Statistical Return (RSR) by the Tenant Services Authority.

Information on the number of RSLs and the number of properties owned by RSLs in each year from 2004 to 2008 is presented in table 1.

Table 1: Number of registered social landlords (RSLs) and the properties they owned, 2004-08

	RSLs[1]	Properties owned by RSLs[2, 3]
2004	1,844	1,906,322
2005	1,746	2,013,385
2006	1,698	2,079,515
2007	1,687	2,178,223
2008	1,676	2,296,368

[1] Based on active RSLs submitting data in the RSR.

[2] Includes general needs, supported housing, housing for older people, social leased housing and non-social housing. Some properties outside England are also included. Includes self-contained units and bed spaces.

[3] Since 2006, RSLs owning/managing less than 250 units/bed spaces have not supplied information on non-social stock. From 2007, this threshold was raised to 1,000 units/bed spaces.

Source:

Tenant Services Authority Regulatory Statistical Return, as at 31 March.

These figures are based on active RSLs submitting data in the RSR and include non-social housing, social leased housing and social rented properties. Some properties outside England are also included.

It is not possible to identify RSLs providing lettings to supported housing and housing older people separately. Due to a change in definitions, it is not possible to provide figures prior to 2003-04 on a consistent basis. Information on the number of RSLs providing lettings to supported housing and housing for older people in each year from 2004-05 to 2007-08 is presented in table 2.

Table 2: Number of RSLs providing lettings to supported housing and housing for older people, 2004-05 to 2007-08

	Number
2004-05	906
2005-06	906
2006-07	928
2007-08	870

Note:

Figures cover the period 1 April to 31 March.

Source:

Tenant Services Authority Regulatory Statistical Return, as at 31 March.

Margaret Moran: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what assessment she has made of the effects on rates of *(a)* homelessness and *(b)* overcrowding in social rented stock. [267146]

Mr. Iain Wright: Between 2003 and 2008, the number of homelessness acceptances fell by 58 per cent. and the rate of acceptances from 6.5 to 2.7 per thousand households. The latest statistics show that there were 12,070 homelessness acceptances during the period October to December 2008—21 per cent. lower than the same period last year. The proportion of homelessness acceptances due to mortgage repossessions has remained at 4 per cent. since the end of 2007.

In addition, the number of households in temporary accommodation has fallen for 13 consecutive quarters and is now one third lower than the peak in 2004 (where figures had remained static at around 101,000). There were 67,480 households in temporary accommodation on 31 December 2008—15 per cent. lower than the same date last year. This represents a rate of 3.1 households in temporary accommodation per thousand households, which has fallen from 4.8 at the time of the peak. 50 per cent. of local authorities have already met the target to halve the number of households in temporary accommodation by 2010.

This success is largely due to the effective and positive work local authorities and voluntary agencies have undertaken on prevention measures. We have allocated £200 million to local authorities and voluntary organisations over three years 2008-09 to 2010-11 to support their strategies for preventing and tackling homelessness in their areas.

We also recently announced a £200 million Mortgage Rescue Scheme to help vulnerable home owners. This scheme is available to all local authorities and will aim to help up to 6,000 of the most vulnerable households avoid the trauma of repossession over the next two years. This scheme is now operational.

Levels of overcrowding are measured through the Survey of English Housing and assessed against the 'bedroom standard', based on the composition of all households and the age and gender of all household members. Based on a three-year rolling average from 2005-06 to 2007-08, we estimate that there are 234,000 overcrowded households in the social sector. These figures will next be updated using results from the new English Housing Survey, probably in January 2010.

Tenant Services Authority

Margaret Moran: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what estimate she has made of the Tenant Services Authority's expenditure on its National Conversation. [267149]

Mr. Iain Wright: To date, the TSA have spent £103,000 on the campaign for the National Conversation.

JUSTICE

Bail Accommodation and Support Service

Mr. Vara: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many and what proportion of residents of ClearSprings properties have breached their residency obligations since the scheme was introduced; how many have been removed from their property as a result; and if he will make a statement. [264757]

Mr. Hanson: As at 24 March 832 service users placed in ClearSprings' properties available to the bail accommodation and support service have been in breach and their residency terminated, since the commencement of the scheme in June 2007.

The scheme is designed to support those who due to their lack of suitable accommodation would otherwise be in prison rather than on bail or home detention curfew. The breach rate shows that, if defendants or offenders abuse the accommodation provided by the scheme, they will be returned swiftly to court or prison as appropriate.

Civil Service

Mrs. Laing: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice pursuant to the Answer of 17 March 2009, *Official Report,* column 774, whether proposals on the constitutional position of the Civil Service will be included in the Constitutional Renewal Bill. [265651]

Mr. Straw: The Governance of Britain Green Paper set out the Government's commitment to bring forward legislation to enshrine the core principles and values of the civil service in law. The draft Constitutional Renewal Bill contained provisions in respect of the civil service. As I said, it remains my intention that the necessary legislation will be brought forward. The Bill is in the final stages of drafting.

Courts: Finance

Mr. Grieve: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the budget of *(a)* HM Courts Service in each area and *(b)* the Royal Courts of Justice group is for (i) 2007-08, (ii) 2008-09 and (iii) 2009-10. [263845]

Mr. Straw: The gross budgets for (i) 2007-08, (ii) 2008-09 and (iii) 2009-10 are shown in the following table by the main areas of business within HMCS and also the Royal Courts of Justice.

Total delegation

£000

	2007-08	*2008-09*	*2009-10*
Regions (excluding RCJ)	844,850	839,100	833,500
Royal Courts of Justice (RCJ)	56,734	54,818	56,000
Total	901,584	893,918	889,500

2009-10 figures are provisionally agreed and could possibly be altered to reflect in year movements by end of April 2009.

Dangerous Dogs Act 1991: Convictions

Justine Greening: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many people in each *(a)* region and *(b)* London borough have been (i) charged with and (ii) convicted of offences under the Dangerous Dogs Act 1991 in each year since 1997; how many of those convicted were found guilty of offences under (A) section 1 and (B) section 3 of the Act; and of those how many were given a (1) destruction order, (2) disqualification order, (3) custodial sentence, (4) fine on Level 1 of the standard scale, (5) fine on Level 2 of the standard scale, (6) fine on Level 3 of the standard scale, (7) fine on Level 4 of the standard scale and (8) fine on Level 5 of the standard scale. [265582]

Maria Eagle: The number of persons proceeded against at magistrates courts and found guilty at all courts under sections 1, 3 and 4 of the Dangerous Dogs Act 1991, by region, in England and Wales, 1997 to 2007 can be viewed in tables 1 and 2.

Charging data are not held by the Ministry of Justice, thus prosecution data have been provided in lieu.

The number of persons fined and given custodial sentences for offences under the Dangerous Dogs Act 1991 sections 1 and 3 broken down by region and fine levels, in England and Wales, 1997 to 2007 can be viewed in table 3.

Information on destruction and disqualification orders is not held centrally and can be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Court proceedings data are not available at London borough level.

These data are on the principal offence basis. The figures given in the following table on court proceedings relate to persons for whom these offences were the principal offence for which they were dealt with. When a defendant has been found guilty of two or more offences, the offence selected is the one for which the heaviest penalty is imposed. Where the same disposal is imposed for two or more offences, the offence selected is the offence for which the statutory maximum penalty is the most severe.

Court proceedings data for 2008 will be available in the autumn of 2009.

Table 1: Number of persons proceeded against at magistrates courts, under Section 1, Section 3 and Section 4 of the Dangerous Dogs Act 1991, by region, in England and Wales, 1997 to 2007[1, 2, 3]

Proceeded against

Region	*1997*	*1998*	*1999*	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*
Section 1, 3, and 4 of the Dangerous Dogs Act 1991											
North East	50	77	72	72	59	66	64	76	55	71	95
North West	77	108	124	118	123	111	151	138	129	157	184
Yorkshire and Humberside	46	90	82	69	90	87	107	119	134	165	112
East Midlands	25	62	61	60	46	67	75	78	105	78	93
West Midlands	46	93	81	65	127	133	137	143	137	108	150
East of England	38	54	60	72	57	87	80	63	108	104	128
London	80	83	79	92	97	86	91	82	80	102	150
South East	79	93	95	118	99	107	98	127	134	158	138
South West	36	57	81	64	109	100	107	75	67	68	65
Wales	27	45	67	[illegible]	79	78	78	89	76	66	78
England and Wales	504	762	802	[illegible]	886	922	988	990	1,025	1,077	1,193
Section 1 of the Dangerous Dogs Act 1991											
North East	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	5
North West	3	1	1	2	0	0	1	5	1	1	25
Yorkshire and Humberside	1	3	1	1	0	2	1	2	4	0	4
East Midlands	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	11	3	1	0
West Midlands	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	4	0	21
East of England	2	2	0	1	0	2	0	1	1	1	1
London	16	17	12	6	7	9	2	3	1	6	43

Table 1: Number of persons proceeded against at magistrates courts, under Section 1, Section 3 and Section 4 of the Dangerous Dogs Act 1991, by region, in England and Wales, 1997 to 2007[1, 2, 3]

Proceeded against

Region	*1997*	*1998*	*1999*	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*
South East	6	9	7	3	1	2	0	0	0	0	6
South West	0	2	4	2	0	1	1	0	2	3	4
Wales	1	1	0	1	0	0	2	0	2	0	0
England and Wales	31	35	26	17	9	16	7	22	10	17	103
Section 3 of the Dangerous Dogs Act 1991											
North East	49	77	70	72	59	66	64	76	55	71	90
North West	74	107	123	116	121	111	149	132	128	155	159
Yorkshire and Humberside	45	87	80	68	88	84	106	117	130	164	108
East Midlands	23	62	61	59	46	67	75	64	102	77	91
West Midlands	44	93	81	65	126	132	137	143	133	108	128
East of England	36	52	60	46	57	84	80	62	107	102	134
London	64	66	67	86	90	77	88	79	79	96	106
South East	69	84	88	115	99	105	98	127	134	158	138
South West	36	49	50	46	74	73	87	57	51	57	57
Wales	26	44	66	90	79	78	76	89	73	66	77
England and Wales	466	721	746	783	839	877	961	946	991	1,054	1,088

[1] These data are on the principal offence basis.

[2] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

[3] Includes the following statutes and corresponding offence descriptions:

Dangerous Dogs Act 1991 Sec 1(2)(a)
Breeding or breeding from a fighting dog.
Dangerous Dogs Act 1991 Sec 1(2)(b)
Selling, exchanging, offering, advertising or exposing for sale a fighting dog.
Dangerous Dogs Act 1991 Sec 1(2)(c)
Giving or offering to give a fighting dog.
Dangerous Dogs Act 1991 Sec 1(2)(d)
Allowing a fighting dog to be in a public place without a muzzle or a lead.
Dangerous Dogs Act 1991 Sec 1(2)(e)
Abandoning, or allowing to stray, a fighting dog.
Dangerous Dogs Act 1991 Sec 1(3)
Possession, without exemption, of a Pit Bull Terrier, Japanese Tosa or other designated fighting dog.
Dangerous Dogs Act 1991 Sec 3(1)
Owner or person in charge allowing dog to be dangerously out of control in a public place injuring any person.
Dangerous Dogs Act 1991 Sec 3(3)
Owner or person in charge allowing dog to enter a non-public place and injure any person.
Dangerous Dogs Act 1991 Sec 3(1)
Owner or person in charge allowing dog to be dangerously out of control in a public place, no injury being caused.
Dangerous Dogs Act 1991 Sec 3(3)
Owner or person in charge allowing dog to enter a non-public place causing reasonable apprehension of injury to a person.
Dangerous Dogs Act 1991 S.4 (8)
Failing to give up a dog for destruction or having custody of a dog while disqualified.
Source:
Office for Criminal Justice Reform, Evidence & Analysis Unit - Ministry of Justice

Table 2: Number of persons found guilty at all courts under Section 1, Section 3 and Section 4 of the Dangerous Dogs Act 1991, by region, in England and Wales, 1997 to 2007[1, 2, 3, 4]

Found guilty

Region	*1997*	*1998*	*1999*	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*
Section 1, 3, and 4 of the Dangerous Dogs Act 1991											
North East	17	33	42	38	40	42	35	39	39	45	72
North West	39	67	80	73	75	73	96	82	84	107	124
Yorkshire and Humberside	18	53	43	41	51	44	60	73	87	104	66
East Midlands	17	32	35	38	23	38	42	53	62	47	61
West Midlands	22	47	38	30	73	54	63	86	76	84	102
East of England	14	29	32	39	31	38	45	36	67	63	82
London	42	42	41	42	51	52	47	48	47	57	91
South East	43	45	52	58	52	51	42	64	74	82	86
South West	20	32	43	38	76	77	55	51	40	37	44
Wales	9	26	36	49	50	48	46	50	49	42	56
England and Wales	241	406	442	446	522	517	531	582	625	668	782
Section 1 of the Dangerous Dogs Act 1991											
North East	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4
North West	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	4	1	1	19
Yorkshire and Humberside	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	4	0	1
East Midlands	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	11	1	0	0

Table 2: Number of persons found guilty at all courts under Section 1, Section 3 and Section 4 of the Dangerous Dogs Act 1991, by region, in England and Wales, 1997 to 2007[1, 2, 3, 4]

											Found guilty
Region	*1997*	*1998*	*1999*	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*
West Midlands	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	2	0	15
East of England	1	2	0	0	0	1	0	1	1	1	1
London	11	8	7	2	3	5	1	1	1	3	32
South East	3	1	3	3	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
South West	0	2	1	1	0	0	0	0	1	1	2
Wales	1	1	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0
England and Wales	19	15	12	8	4	7	3	17	11	6	74
Section 3 of the Dangerous Dogs Act 1991											
North East	17	33	41	30	40	42	35	30	39	45	60
North West	38	67	80	73	74	73	94	78	83	106	105
Yorkshire and Humberside	18	52	42	40	49	43	60	73	83	104	63
East Midlands	15	32	35	38	23	38	42	39	61	47	61
West Midlands	20	47	38	30	72	74	63	86	74	84	86
East of England	13	27	32	36	31	36	45	35	66	61	81
London	31	34	34	40	40	47	46	47	46	54	50
South East	38	44	49	55	52	50	42	64	74	82	86
South West	20	24	26	24	48	36	44	36	30	33	38
Wales	8	25	35	48	50	48	45	50	49	42	56
England and Wales	218	385	412	422	487	487	516	547	605	658	701

[1] These data are on the principal offence basis.

[2] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

[3] Includes the following statutes and corresponding offence descriptions:

Dangerous Dogs Act 1991 Sec 1(2)(a)
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Selling, exchanging, offering, advertising or exposing for sale a fighting dog.
Dangerous Dogs Act 1991 Sec 1(2)(c)
Giving or offering to give a fighting dog.
Dangerous Dogs Act 1991 Sec 1(2)(d)
Allowing a fighting dog to be in a public place without a muzzle or a lead.
Dangerous Dogs Act 1991 Sec 1(2)(e)
Abandoning, or allowing to stray, a fighting dog.
Dangerous Dogs Act 1991 Sec 1(3)
Possession, without exemption, of a Pit Bull Terrier, Japanese Tosa or other designated fighting dog.
Dangerous Dogs Act 1991 Sec 3(1)
Owner or person in charge allowing dog to be dangerously out of control in a public place injuring any person.
Dangerous Dogs Act 1991 Sec 3(3)
Owner or person in charge allowing dog to enter a non-public place and injure any person.
Dangerous Dogs Act 1991 Sec 3(1)
Owner or person in charge allowing dog to be dangerously out of control in a public place, no injury being caused.
Dangerous Dogs Act 1991 Sec 3(3)
Owner or person in charge allowing dog to enter a non-public place causing reasonable apprehension of injury to a person.
Dangerous Dogs Act 1991 S.4 (8)
Failing to give up a dog for destruction or having custody of a dog while disqualified

[4] Staffordshire Police Force were only able to submit sample data for persons proceeded against and convicted in the magistrates' courts for the year 2000. Although sufficient to estimate higher orders of data, these data are not robust enough at a detailed level and have been excluded from the table.

Source:
Office for Criminal Justice Reform, Evidence & Analysis Unit - Ministry of Justice

Table 3: Persons fined and given custodial sentences for offences under the Dangerous Dogs Act 1991 Sections 1 and 3 broken down by region and fine levels, England and Wales, 1997 to 2007

Dangerous Dogs Act1991/Region/Sentence		*1997*	*1998*	*1999*	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*
Dangerous Dogs Act section 1												
North East	Persons fined											
	Level 1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
	Persons given custodial sentence	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
North West	Persons fined											
	Level 1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	3	0	1	0
	Level 2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1
	Persons given custodial sentence	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4
Yorkshire and Humberside	Persons fined											

Table 1: Persons fined and given custodial sentences for offences under the Dangerous Dogs Act 1991 Sections 1 and 3 broken down by region and fine levels, England and Wales, 1997 to 2007

Dangerous Dogs Act1991/Region/Sentence			*1997*	*1998*	*1999*	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*
		Level 1	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	2	0	0
		Persons given custodial sentence	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0
	East Midlands	Persons fined											
		Level 1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	10	0	0	0
		Level 2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
		Persons given custodial sentence	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	West Midlands	Persons fined											
		Level 1	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1
		Persons given custodial sentence	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	11
	East of England	Persons fined											
		Level 1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0
		Persons given custodial sentence	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1
	London	Persons fined											
		Level 1	4	2	4	1	0	4	1	1	1	1	7
		Level 2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
		Persons given custodial sentence	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3
	South East	Persons fined											
		Level 1	1	0	2	3	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
		Persons given custodial sentence	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	South West	Persons fined											
		Level 1	0	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
		Level 2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
		Persons given custodial sentence	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Wales	Persons fined											
		Level 1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0
		Level 2	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
		Level 3	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
		Persons given custodial sentence	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Dangerous Dogs Act section 3													
	North East	Persons fined											
		Level 1	6	13	11	8	7	12	10	5	8	11	10
		Level 2	3	0	1	0	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
		Persons given custodial sentence	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0

Table 3: Persons fined and given custodial sentences for offences under the Dangerous Dogs Act 1991 Sections 1 and 3 broken down by region and fine levels, England and Wales, 1997 to 2007

Dangerous Dogs Act1991/Region/Sentence		1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
North West	Persons fined											
	Level 1	10	30	36	30	21	25	21	30	23	41	27
	Level 2	2	4	1	3	4	2	9	1	3	3	7
	Level 3	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	1	1
	Level 4	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0
	Level 5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0
	Persons given custodial sentence	0	1	2	2	0	1	3	1	1	3	12
Yorkshire and Humberside	Persons fined											
	Level 1	5	10	15	11	21	24	22	23	27	22	18
	Level 2	1	1	2	0	2	1	3	3	7	4	4
	Level 3	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0
	Persons given custodial sentence	0	0	1	1	0	0	1	0	0	4	2
East Midlands	Persons fined											
	Level 1	5	10	11	13	8	14	13	11	18	8	14
	Level 2	0	0	3	2	1	3	0	1	2	3	3
	Level 3	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
	Level 4	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
	Persons given custodial sentence	0	0	0	1	1	0	1	0	0	3	2
West Midlands	Persons fined											
	Level 1	9	0	11	6	24	31	26	34	28	35	27
	Level 2	0	3	3	2	5	0	3	4	6	4	6
	Level 3	0	1	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	1
	Level 4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
	Level 5	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Persons given custodial sentence	0	1	0	1	0	1	2	1	0	2	4
East of England	Persons fined											
	Level 1	3	9	8	7	10	15	14	12	20	17	21
	Level 2	0	0	0	2	4	2	6	3	4	2	6
	Level 3	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	3
	Level 4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
	Persons given custodial sentence	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	1	1
London	Persons fined											
	Level 1	12	8	12	17	20	15	20	14	9	12	9
	Level 2	3	2	1	7	0	3	4	5	3	4	6
	Level 3	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	1	0	0	0
	Level 4	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	0
	Persons given custodial sentence	0	0	1	0	1	2	0	2	0	3	4
South East	Persons fined											
	Level 1	9	12	17	10	13	17	9	14	15	19	27

Table 3: Persons fined and given custodial sentences for offences under the Dangerous Dogs Act 1991 Sections 1 and 3 broken down by region and fine levels, England and Wales, 1997 to 2007

Dangerous Dogs Act1991/Region/Sentence		*1997*	*1998*	*1999*	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*
	Level 2	0	5	2	1	4	2	6	5	3	10	7
	Level 3	1	0	2	1	0	0	1	0	1	1	0
	Level 4	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1
	Persons given custodial sentence	1	1	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1
South West	Persons fined											
	Level 1	6	6	9	7	17	8	7	6	4	5	8
	Level 2	0	1	2	4	6	2	3	0	1	4	1
	Level 3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	2	0
	Persons given custodial sentence	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	2	1
Wales	Persons fined											
	Level 1	4	11	13	20	23	22	21	27	20	17	19
	Level 2	0	1	0	0	2	3	1	0	3	2	4
	Level 3	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	1	0
	Level 5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0
	Persons given custodial sentence	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	1	3

Note:
These figures are on the principal offence basis.
Source:
(OMSAS)03-09

Departmental Air Travel

Mr. Maude: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice with reference to the answer to the hon. Member for Rochford and Southend, East (Mr. Duddridge) of 21 October 2008, *Official Report*, column 257W, on departmental air travel, if he will place in the Library the figures for 2007-08. [241712]

Mr. Woolas: I have been asked to reply.

The Department's air travel for 2007-08 is set out in the following table:

	km
Domestic air travel	4,985,381
Short-haul air travel	2,601,782
Long-haul air travel	6,369,225
Total	13,956,388

These data cover some business areas that are now part of the Ministry of Justice.

All official travel is carried out in accordance with the requirements of the Civil Service Management Code.

The Home Office participates in the Government Carbon Offsetting Fund which is co-ordinated by DEFRA. This ensures the Department offsets carbon dioxide emissions from its official air travel.

Departmental Carbon Emissions

Greg Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice whether his Department has adopted the Carbon Trust's Carbon Management Programme. [266731]

Mr. Malik: The Ministry of Justice has not adopted the Carbon Trust's Carbon Management Programme throughout. Her Majesty's Prison Service launched a Carbon Management Programme last year in co-operation with the Carbon Trust. Her Majesty's Land Registry are part way through the implementation of a Carbon Management Programme. Other parts of the Department are working with the Carbon Trust through the commissioning of energy surveys.

Departmental Electronic Equipment

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how much his Department and its predecessor have spent on *(a)* flat screen televisions, *(b)* DVD players and *(c)* stereo equipment in each of the last three years. [242456]

Maria Eagle: The information requested is contained in the following table.

	2005-06			*2006-07*			*2007-08*		
	Flat screen	*DVD*	*Stereo*	*Flat screen*	*DVD*	*Stereo*	*Flat screen*	*DVD*	*Stereo*
MOJ HQ[1]	0	0	0	0	0	0	40,193	3,876	0
Office for Criminal Justice Reform	Based in Home Office premises								
HMPS	0								

	2005-06			2006-07			2007-08		
	Flat screen	*DVD*	*Stereo*	*Flat screen*	*DVD*	*Stereo*	*Flat screen*	*DVD*	*Stereo*
NOMS					0				
HMCS					0				
Tribunal	0	0	0	10,000	0	0	10,000	0	0
Total	0	0	0	10,000	0	0	50,193	3,876	0
Grand total					£64,069				

[1]Cost includes supply, installation and commissioning, exclusive of VAT.

The vast majority of the screens installed at 102 Petty France are not operating as televisions but even where for example they run BBC News 24 it is not obtained via the in-built receivers but run over the network via the "media star" installation (Parliamentary TV).

Information for Her Majesty's Prison Service, National Offender Management Service and Her Majesty's Courts Service could be obtained only at disproportionate costs. The information requested is not held centrally, requiring contact with each court and prison region. The Prison Service alone has 40 regions nationwide.

In addition to the costs stated for the Tribunals Service (TS), a further £35,000 was capitalised on video conference facilities for the Criminal Injuries Compensation Appeals Panel CICAP in 2006-07. This enabled the reduction of costs of staff incurred through travel/time within the TS.

Departmental Energy

Greg Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what steps have been taken by *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agencies to improve the thermal efficiency of their buildings in the last 12 months. [266753]

Mr. Malik: Steps taken by the Ministry of Justice to improve the thermal efficiency of its core headquarters buildings in the last 12 months cover a range of work such as:

the installation of additional roof insulation;

improved draught proofing of windows;

thermal insulation of pipework;

re-balancing of air conditioning to improve operational, energy and thermal efficiency; and,

the refurbishment of 102 Petty France which saw the building fabric and systems improved to meet the high BREEAM[1] standards.

In respect of the Agencies for which the Ministry is responsible:

Her Majesty's Court Service (HMCS): all new buildings are required to be designed using the Court Standard and Design Guide which incorporates building regulations and includes details of U values (the measurement of heat transfer through a given building material, glass etc., the lower the U Value—the better the insulator) and thermal modelling. The use of the Design Guide assists developers in achieving BREEAM "Excellent" for all new building and "Very Good" for refurbishments. This means that they would be in excess of Building Regulations in terms of thermal efficiency. There are a wide range of factors required to achieve BREEAM "Excellent", so the extent of the thermal efficiency improvement would vary from building to building so as to achieve the best overall thermal performance for that building.

HMCS has carried out research to ascertain which types of building from the existing stock are the most energy efficient. HMCS has used this information to prioritise the retention of the most energy efficient buildings, the disposal of the least energy efficient, and targeted improvement of the thermal efficiency of all retained building stock. This is leading to an ongoing improvement in the thermal efficiency of the overall estate.

Tribunals Service: no specific work has been undertaken in the last 12 months.

National Offender Management Service—Her Majesty's Prison Service (HMPS): In undertaking a Carbon Management Programme (from June 2008) HMPS are identifying cost-effective opportunities for saving carbon. Included in these are building fabric improvements to improve the thermal efficiency. These opportunities are being costed and prioritised, and will be implemented subject to approval of the implementation plan.

HM Land Registry have not taken specific action to improve the thermal efficiency of their buildings, in the last 12 months, mainly because they carried out this work on most of their buildings over a lengthy period prior to then especially in relation to providing double glazed windows.

The National Archives (TNA): no direct steps have been taken to improve thermal efficiency of TNA's Kew site in the last 12 months. The Carbon Trust and TEAM Energy Auditing Agency have provided energy saving recommendations.

[1] For over a decade, BREEAM has been used to assess the environmental performance of both new and existing buildings. It is regarded by the UK's construction and property sectors as the measure of best practice in environmental design and management.

Greg Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what recent progress his Department has made towards the target of increasing its energy efficiency per square metre of its Estate by 15 per cent. by 2010, relative to 1999-2000 levels; and if he will make a statement. [266883]

Mr. Malik: The Ministry of Justice and its Executive agencies have made progress towards the target of increasing energy efficiency per square metre of estate by 15 per cent. by 2010, relative to 1999-2000 levels. In 2007-08, we achieved an 18.8 per cent. reduction in energy use. This information was published in the seventh annual "Sustainable Development in Government" Report (SDiG) at:

http://www.sd-commission.org.uk/sdig2008

Departmental Furniture

Mrs. Moon: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how much has been spent by his Department on furniture made by *(a)* British firms, *(b)* Remploy and *(c)* overseas firms in each year since it was established. [244351]

Maria Eagle: The Ministry of Justice was established on 9 May 2007. Since establishment, expenditure on furniture for planned large scale projects and refurbishments, breaks down as follows:

(*a*) British firms: £5,999,577.

(*b*) Remploy: Nil.

(*c*) Overseas firms: £1,525,000.

Remploy has not competed for any raw material tender to date. We manufacture furniture in house, using contracted back up suppliers and inmates through prison industries. In line with our requirement to use prison industries as far as possible for this area of work. However we are currently in the final stages of awarding a contract to Remploy for the provision of education and employment training for prisoners. The contract award is for three years with provision to extend for an additional year and is valued at approximately £1.6 million.

Expenditure is also incurred by individual business areas for local ad-hoc requirements, however records for this expenditure are not held centrally and to provide information on these purchases would be disproportionate in terms of cost and time.

Departmental Lost Property

John Mason: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what property has been lost or stolen from his Department in the last 12 months; and what the estimated cost was of replacement of such property. [263108]

Mr. Straw: Details of individual cases of property lost or stolen are maintained at a local level, and to obtain all information across the MoJ could be completed only at disproportionate cost. To determine which cases the police were involved in and to determine the replacement cost of the property could similarly be gathered only by making queries at an operational level across the organisation at disproportionate cost.

For the year to date 2008-09 the following unaudited balances are available for the value of property lost or stolen within HM Prison Service, where the majority of cases arise, totalling £190,396. This comprises:

Losses of stores: 863 instances: £98,357;

Loss of personal property for which compensation was paid to prisoners, staff or third parties: 1,598 instances: £92,038.

Departmental Public Appointments

Julia Goldsworthy: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice which former (*a*) Members of the House of Lords and (*b*) hon. Members who left Parliament since 1997 have been appointed to public bodies for which his Department is responsible; and who made each such appointment. [267888]

Mr. Wills: Non-departmental public bodies handle their own appointments and this information on who has been appointed and who made these appointments is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost. Lists of board members are published in individual bodies' annual reports and accounts.

Departmental Publications

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what estimate he has made of the (*a*) production and printing and (*b*) other costs to his Department of producing its most recent (i) departmental annual report and (ii) autumn performance report. [266689]

Maria Eagle: The production and printing costs of the Ministry of Justice departmental annual report 2007-08 were £26,229.67.

The production and printing costs for the Ministry of Justice autumn performance report 2008 were £14,133. There were no other costs.

Departmental Recycling

Mr. Rob Wilson: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how much and what proportion of its waste his Department recycled in 2007-08. [266779]

Mr. Malik: The amount of total waste arisings in 2007-08 for the Ministry of Justice and its Executive agencies was 71,060.0 tonnes. The proportion of waste the Department recycled in 2007-08 was 15,635.6 tonnes (22 per cent. of waste arisings). This information was published in the seventh annual "Sustainable Development in Government" Report (SDiG) at:

http://www.sd-commission.org.uk/sdig2008/

Departmental Standards

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what estimate he has made of the cost to his Department of measuring compliance with its targets under its public service agreements in the last 12 months for which figures are available. [266708]

Maria Eagle: The Ministry of Justice autumn performance report 2008 contains details of the data sources used to monitor all of the Department's currently-live PSA targets. In each case, the Department is using pre-existing sources of statistics or management information to measure compliance. There are therefore no costs arising from the creation of new data collection systems to monitor PSA targets.

In some cases, targets are monitored using output from recent expansion or development of established data sources. However, where costs have been incurred through this development work, it is not possible to separate costs specifically associated with PSA target monitoring from those associated with more general, ongoing improvements to the Department's evidence base.

National Offender Management Service: Consultants

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the policy of the National Offender Management Service is on appointing consultants from firms not approved by the Office of Government Commerce. [266413]

Mr. Straw: The Office of Government Commerce (OGC) Catalist frameworks are the frameworks of choice for National Offender Management Service and new consultancy requirements are satisfied largely via competitions within the appropriate frameworks. Non-OGC Catalist suppliers are utilised only in cases where Catalist is deemed not to be able to satisfy the specialist nature of a requirement or, in a few limited cases, where the continued provision of services from a non-Catalist supplier is required for proven business continuity. In all instances, the commercial route is vetted and approved by qualified Procurement Directorate staff.

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what proportion of consultancy contracts initiated by the National Offender Management Service were awarded to ASE Consulting Ltd in *(a)* 2006, *(b)* 2007 and *(c)* 2008. [266414]

Mr. Straw: Centralised historical data are not available before the financial year 2007-08, as the Department has only had a centralised consultancy contracting team since April 2008. Several reorganisations within the Departments making up the National Offender Management Service have also seen responsibility for data collection and retention shift. A current register of contracts is held which includes data for the period April 2008 to current date only. To investigate periods outside this range would therefore incur significant disproportionate costs.

During the period April 2008 to date, 341 contracts and contract extensions were awarded, of which five were with ASE Consulting Ltd.

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice if he will review the processes by which the National Offender Management Service appoints consultants to ensure efficiency. [266415]

Mr. Straw: A mandatory process that governs the use and procurement of consultants and specialist contractors was introduced to the National Offender Management Service (NOMS) in April 2008. This process requires adherence to clear policy and procedure in respect of the engagement of consultants and specialist contractors and includes a clear approvals and assurance process.

All requirements are reviewed and the commercial route approved by a dedicated and qualified procurement team in the Ministry of Justice Procurement Directorate to ensure compliance with internal policy and EU Public Procurement Regulations. The same team deliver subsequent contractual requirements.

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how much the National Offender Management Scheme spent on consultants in *(a)* 2006, *(b)* 2007 and *(c)* 2008. [266416]

Mr. Straw: Centralised historical data are not available before the financial year 2007-08, as the Department has only had a centralised consultancy contracting team since April 2008. Several reorganisations within the Departments making up the National Offender Management Service (NOMS) have also seen responsibility for data collection and retention shift. A current register of contracts is held which includes data for the period April 2008 to current date only. To investigate periods outside this range would therefore incur significant disproportionate costs.

Consultancy expenditure across NOMS in the financial year 2007-08 was £3.4 million.

National Offender Management Service: Finance

Mr. Grieve: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the planned resource budget of *(a)* the National Offender Management Service headquarters, *(b)* HM Prison Service and *(c)* the National Probation Service is for 2009-10. [264669]

Mr. Straw: The allocation of the resource budget for the National Offender Management Service (NOMS) is not yet finalised. The main estimates which will provide the funding for the three funding streams of NOMS headquarters, operations and probation boards, will be laid before Parliament in June.

National Offender Management Service: Manpower

Mr. Grieve: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what change is planned in the full-time equivalent headcount of *(a)* the National Offender Management Service, *(b)* the National Probation Service and *(c)* HM Courts Service by the end of 2009-10. [264665]

Mr. Straw: The Ministry of Justice is committed to delivering £1 billion of saving by March 2011 and establishing a modern and efficient justice system that delivers the best possible service to our customers and the public.

Budgets for 2009-10 have been agreed. Detailed work force plans for next financial year are being developed across headquarters; by Regional and area directors in HM Courts Service; and by Directors of Offender Management, Governors and Chief Officers of Probation for National Offender Management Service, including the level of estimated exits due to natural wastage. This work has yet to be completed and the Department will continue to consult with trade unions as the plans develop. I will write to the hon. and learned Gentleman with the figures when they are available, which I expect to be by the end of June 2009.

Offences against Children

Mr. Grieve: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many offenders aged 21 years or over received a caution for sexual activity with a child under 13 years in each year since 2004. [258332]

Maria Eagle: Information on the number of offenders aged 21 and over cautioned for sexual activity with a child under 13 in England and Wales in each year from 2004 to 2007 (latest available) is shown in the following table.

For such indictable only offences, the decision to prosecute is taken by the Crown Prosecution Service (CPS), based on the seriousness of the offence, the evidence before them and the public interest. In the majority of cases a caution would not be appropriate for this type of offence. However in exceptional circumstances the police and CPS may decide that it is in the best interests of the victim not to prosecute. Issuing a caution in such circumstances for an offence under the Sexual Offences Act 2003 ensures that the offender will be placed on the sex offenders register. The caution forms part of their criminal record. The caution may also be cited in court in any subsequent proceedings and can be made known to a prospective employer.

Number of offenders aged 21 years and over cautioned for offences relating to sexual activity with a child aged under 13[1], England and Wales, 2004 to 2007[2, 3]

	Aged 21 and over
2004	23
2005	73
2006	69
2007	64

[1] Includes the following statutes under the Sexual Offences Act 2003; Sections 5, 6, 7, 8 (1) (2) and (3), 9 (1)(a)(b)(c)(ii) and (2) and (3), 10 (1)(a)(b)(c)(ii) and (3), 11 (1)(a)(b)(c)(d)(ii) and (2), 12 (1)(a)(b)(c)(ii) and 2, 25 (1)(e)(ii) and (2)-(4)(a)(b), 49 (l)(a)(b)(ii) and (2).

[2] The cautions statistics relate to persons for whom these offences were the principal offences for which they were dealt with. When a defendant has been cautioned for two or more offences at the same time the principal offence is the more serious offence.

[3] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

Source:

Evidence and Analysis Unit—Office for Criminal Justice Reform.

Offensive Weapons: Sentencing

Mr. Grieve: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many offenders received *(a)* a caution, *(b)* immediate custody, *(c)* a fine, *(d)* a community sentence, *(e)* an absolute or conditional discharge and *(f)* another disposal for unlawful possession of a knife in the last year for which data are available. [263846]

Mr. Straw: The requested information is shown in the following table. Statistics published by the Ministry of Justice in the first quarterly knife crime sentencing bulletin (on 12 March) showed:

> More offenders are being sent to jail (23 per cent.): the number of offences resulting in immediate custody rose from 1,125 in the last quarter of 2007 to 1,386 in the same period of 2008. On average there was a 40 per cent. increase in the number of prisoners serving a sentence for possession of an offensive weapon between the same periods.
>
> Fewer cautions being issued: the number fell 31 per cent. over the same period (1,706 in the last quarter of 2008 compared to 2,455 in the same period of 2007).
>
> More use of tougher community sentences: the number of offences resulting in community sentences rose 16 per cent. (from 1,861 in the last quarter of 2007 to 2,151 in the same period of 2007).
>
> Longer sentences: the average immediate custodial sentence has risen by 38 per cent. (from 133 days in the last quarter of 2007 to 184 days in the same period of 2008).

The proportion of all possession offences resulting in immediate custody rose to 21 per cent. in the last quarter of 2008 from 17 per cent. in the same period of 2007. The proportion of offences resulting in a caution decreased from 36 per cent. in the last quarter of 2007 to 25 per cent. in the last quarter of 2008.

The statistics also show a decline in the total number of offences involving possession of a knife or other offensive weapon (6,704 offences were dealt with between October and December last year, compared to 6,808 in the same period of 2007).

The figures presented are taken from the Ministry of Justice's publication "Knife Crime Sentencing: Quarterly Brief" published on 12 March 2009 and available from:

http://www.justice.gov.uk/publications/knife-crime-sentencing.htm

These figures have been drawn from the police's administrative IT system, the police national computer (PNC), which, as with any large scale recording system, is subject to possible errors with data entry and processing. The figures are provisional and subject to change as more information is recorded by the police.

PNC data have been used here rather than court data, which are the usual source of published sentencing statistics, as the PNC provides more up-to-date figures ahead of the finalised annual court data.

Offences involving the possession of a knife or offensive weapon resulting in a caution or sentence[1, 2], England and Wales, 2008

	Number
Total	27,644
Cautions (includes juvenile reprimands and final warnings)	8,368
Absolute/conditional discharge	1,337
Fine	1,091
Community sentence	8,401
Suspended sentence	2,432
Immediate custody	5,317
Other disposal	698

[1] As recorded by the police on the police national computer.

[2] The figures are a count of offences rather than offenders. Where an offender has been sentenced for several possession offences, each sentence has been counted.

Data Source and Quality

These figures have been drawn from the police's administrative IT systems which, as with any large scale recording system, is subject to possible errors with data entry and processing. The figures are provisional and subject to change as more information is recorded by the police.

Source:

OMS Analytical Services, Ministry of Justice.

Office for Criminal Justice Reform: Finance

Mr. Garnier: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the budget for each major area of expenditure of the Office for Criminal Justice Reform has been in each year since its establishment. [265888]

Maria Eagle: The following table shows the budget for each major area of expenditure of the Office for Criminal Justice Reform each year since its establishment.

£ million

		Admin Pay	*Admin Other*	*Admin Total*	*Programme*	*Total Resources*	*Capital*	*Total Budget*
2004/5	Criminal Justice IT	3.00	4.00	7.00	43.79	50.79	8.82	59.60
	Criminal Injuries Compensation Authority	—	—	—	204.20	204.20	—	204.20

£ million

		Admin Pay	*Admin Other*	*Admin Total*	*Programme*	*Total Resources*	*Capital*	*Total Budget*
	Criminal Cases Review Commission	—	—	—	7.84	7.84	0.62	8.46
	OCJR core	8.69	12.11	20.80	34.48	55.29	6.21	61.49
		11.69	16.11	27.80	290.31	318.11	15.64	333.76
2005/6	Criminal Justice IT	3.03	2.13	5.16	39.70	44.86	44.77	89.63
	Criminal Injuries Compensation Authority	—	—	—	214.00	214.00	—	214.00
	Criminal Cases Review Commission	—	—	—	7.80	7.80	0.16	7.96
	OCJR core	10.60	6.21	16.80	40.39	57.19	0.87	58.06
		13.63	8.33	21.96	301.89	323.85	45.80	369.65
2006/7	Criminal Justice IT	2.98	1.52	4.50	55.76	60.26	31.57	91.83
	Criminal Injuries Compensation Authority	—	—	—	221.00	221.00	—	221.00
	Criminal Cases Review Commission	—	—	—	7.61	7.61	0.06	7.66
	OCJR core	10.74	3.63	14.36	46.00	60.36	7.40	67.76
		13.72	5.15	18.86	330.36	349.23	39.02	388.25
2007-08	Criminal Justice IT	3.49	0.89	4.37	58.63	63.01	35.91	98.92
	Criminal Injuries Compensation Authority	—	—	—	245.00	245.00	—	245.00
	Criminal Cases Review Commission	—	—	—	7.27	7.27	0.10	7.37
	OCJR core	12.23	2.97	15.20	37.31	52.51	1.58	54.09
		15.72	3.86	19.58	348.21	367.79	3759	405.38
2008-09	OCJR	15.79	3.00	18.79	111.70	130.50	35.40	165.90

The CJIT ring fence was wound down at the end of 2007-08 and its central functions absorbed into OCJR.

During 2008-09, responsibility for the Criminal Injuries Compensation Authority, and the Criminal Cases Review Commission transferred from OCJR to the Access to Justice Group of the Ministry of Justice.

Office for Judicial Complaints: Expenditure

Mr. Grieve: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how much the Office for Judicial Complaints spent in 2007-08. [266179]

Mr. Straw: The Office for Judicial Complaints' costs for 2007-08 were £1,180,000. This figure does not include costs associated with its accommodation or the facilities provided as shared services by the Ministry of Justice.

Prisoners: Drugs

Mr. Grieve: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many prisoners enrolled on courses for drug and alcohol abuse in each of the last five years. [252506]

Mr. Straw: The National Offender Management Service (NOMS) has in place a comprehensive drug treatment framework, based on the National Treatment Agency's revised Models of Care, to address the different needs of drug-misusers in prison. The interventions available are designed to meet the needs of low, moderate and severe drug misusers—irrespective of age, gender or ethnicity.

The following table shows the number of interventions delivered in the last five full financial years in prisons by intervention type. Individual prisoners may have accessed more than one of these interventions in the time period.

A range of interventions are available in prisons to support those with an alcohol problem:

clinical services—alcohol detoxification is available in all local and remand prisons;

where alcohol is part of a wider substance misuse problem, the full range of drug interventions are available;

a number of prisons run alcohol awareness courses;

Alcoholics Anonymous (AA) run groups in over 65 per cent. of prisons;

some offending behaviour programmes address the underlying factors which occur in alcohol related crime;

an accredited 12-step alcohol programme is being run at HMP Bullingdon;

a further four more intensive alcohol programmes based on cognitive behavioural therapy have been piloted at HMP Hull, Forest Bank, Glen Parva and Chelmsford;

for those prisons involved in the roll-out of the Integrated Drug Treatment System a 90-minute alcohol awareness session has been developed; and

the young persons substance misuse service for 16 to 18-year-old prisoners has a particular focus on alcohol.

The Ministry of Justice has established a working group to develop proposals to increase the provision of alcohol treatment available in prisons. The number of prisoners accessing services specifically aimed at their alcohol misuse is not collated centrally.

Table 1: Interventions delivered[1] (rounded to nearest hundred)

Intervention type	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*
Intensive Drug Rehabilitation Programmes[2] (starts)	4,700	7,600	10,700	11,200	11,300
CARATs[3] (substance misuse triage assessments)	54,100	59,000	66,000	65,700	65,800
Young People's Substance Misuse Service (initial assessments)	—	—	8,500	8,300	7,400
Clinical Treatment (detoxification or maintenance prescribing)[4]	57,900	53,900	53,800	51,500	58,800
Total	116,700	120,500	139,000	136,700	143,300

[1] These figures have been drawn from administrative data systems. Although care is taken when processing and analysing the returns, the detail collected is subject to the inaccuracies inherent in any large scale recording system.

[2] Programmes available in prison are split into four main categories: cognitive-behavioural therapy (CBT), the 12-Step approach, Therapeutic Communities (TCs), Short Duration Programme (SDP).

[3] Counselling, assessment, referral, advice and throughcare services.

[4] Drug and alcohol detoxification data cannot be disaggregated.

Prisoners: Suicide

Mr. Garnier: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many and what proportion of suicides in prisons in England and Wales were committed by *(a)* foreign national prisoners and *(b)* foreign national prisoners held beyond the expiration of their sentence in each of the last 10 years. [266596]

Mr. Hanson: Any death in custody is a tragic event. The Government are committed to learning from such events and reducing the number of self-inflicted deaths in prison custody. The National Offender Management Service has a broad, integrated and evidence-based prisoner suicide prevention and self harm management strategy that seeks to reduce the distress of all those in prison. This encompasses a wide spectrum of prison and Department of Health work around such issues as mental health, substance misuse and resettlement. Any prisoner identified as at risk of suicide or self-harm is cared for using the assessment, care in custody and teamwork (ACCT) procedures.

The numbers and proportions of foreign national prisoner self-inflicted deaths are summarised in the following table.

Table: Self-inflicted deaths in prison custody (England and Wales) by nationality type

					Percentage
	EEA foreign national	*Non EEA foreign national*	*UK national*	*Total*	*Foreign nationals*
1999	4	3	84	91	7.7
2000	3	1	77	81	4.9
2001	2	3	68	73	6.8
2002	4	5	86	95	9.5
2003	2	6	86	94	8.5
2004	2	5	88	95	7.4
2005	1	5	72	78	7.7
2006	2	4	61	67	9.0
2007	6	18	68	92	26.1
2008	1	8	52	61	14.8

We do not specifically record whether foreign national prisoners died beyond their expiry date. However, of the 85 self-inflicted deaths among foreign nationals in the 10 years 1999 to 2008 there were four foreign national self-inflicted deaths of immigration detainees recorded in prison custody. Three of these were in 2003 and one in 2008.

Prisoners: Syria

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many Syrian nationals are serving sentences in prisons in England and Wales. [267097]

Mr. Hanson: At the end of December 2008, there were four Syrian nationals serving sentences in prisons in England and Wales.

This figure was drawn from administrative IT systems, which, as with any large scale recording system, are subject to possible errors with data entry and processing.

Prisons

Mr. Grieve: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice whether each of the three new titan prisons will be privately managed. [264666]

Mr. Straw: The pre-Budget report (paragraph 6.30), published in November 2008, said that for the next three years only the private sector would be invited to bid for the construction and operation of new build prisons. The Government response to the consultation on large new prisons will be published in due course.

Prisons: Standards

Mr. Garnier: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice pursuant to the answer of 5 March 2009, *Official Report*, column 1789W, on prisons: standards, when the function of *(a)* Her Majesty's Prison Wolds and *(b)* Her Majesty's Prison and Young Offenders Institution Ashfield last changed; and for what reason no prison performance rating for each was published in the last quarter. [265705]

Mr. Hanson: HMP Wolds opened in April 1992 as a remand prison and in 1993 was re-roled to a local category B prison holding sentenced prisoners. The initial management contract ran for five years and was renewed for a further five years in 1997. In 2001, HMP Wolds was subject to a competitive re-bid. G4S was the successful bidder for the contract to run HMP Wolds as a category C training prison for a further 10 years.

HMP and YOI Ashfield opened on 1 November 1999 and accommodated both juveniles (aged 15 to 17) and young offenders (aged 18 to 21) until February 2004 when it was re-roled as an all juvenile establishment holding young people between 15 but under 18 years of age.

Performance Management Group (National Offender Management Service) owns and manages the Prison Performance Assessment Tool (PPAT) which assesses around 120 public prisons by looking at performance in 33 indicators, which is then cross checked with a rating produced by assessing against a set of 44 indicators in the public prison weighted scorecard. For private prisons only the PPAT is used to produce the data driven assessment. Both HMP Ashfield's and HMP Wolds' performance ratings were published on 12 December 2008 and are available via the following link:

http://www.justice.gov.uk/docs/prison-quarterly-ratings-quarter-2-2008-09.pdf

In the most recent published ratings (quarter 2) both prisons achieved a level 3 rating for good performance.

Prisons: Crimes of Violence

Paul Holmes: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) how many assaults by prisoners on a *(a)* prisoner and *(b)* prison officer were recorded in each prison establishment in each year since 2002; and if he will make a statement; [264714]

(2) how many assaults by prisoners on a *(a)* prisoner and *(b)* prison officer were recorded in each year since 2002 in each female prison establishment; and if he will make a statement; [264715]

(3) how many assaults by prisoners on a *(a)* prisoner and *(b)* prison officer were recorded in each young offenders' institution in each year since 2002; and if he will make a statement. [264716]

Mr. Hanson: Reducing violence in prisons [illegible] a priority for Ministers. The National Offender Management Service and the Prison Officers Association and we are collectively committed to working towards a zero tolerance approach to prison violence. Since 2004, a national strategy has directed every public sector prison to have in place a local violence reduction strategy and since mid 2007 this has been applied to the public and contracted out estate. A whole-prison approach is encouraged, engaging all staff, all disciplines and prisoners in challenging unacceptable behaviour, problem-solving and personal safety.

The information set out in tables 1, 2 and 3 show the number of prisoner on prisoner assaults in all prisons, female prisons and young offender institutions respectively. Similarly tables 4, 5 and 6 show the numbers of prisoner on officer assault incidents. It is important to note that the recorded incidents of assaults on prison officers are not completely exclusive to officers and may include assaults on other prison staff. The numbers supplied refer to the number of individual assault incidents; they include all incidents recorded as assaults and may also include threatening behaviour, projection of bodily fluids and other non-contact events and allegations.

The following information is subject to important qualifications. The NOMS Incident Reporting System processes high volumes of data which are constantly being updated. The numbers provide a good indication of overall numbers but should not be interpreted as absolute. Rises or falls in reported numbers from one year to the next are not a good indicator of an underlying trend for a particular prison. Additionally there have been improvements in reporting over the years, and this is reflected in the tables.

Assault data are complex and the numbers need to be interpreted with caution. Information recorded as assault incidents may involve one or many prisoners as some assault incidents may involve more than one assailant or more than one victim. Additionally in a proportion of incidents only the victim is known.

As prisons have changed roles over time the hon. Gentleman's attention is brought to the notes to the tables which indicate when some of the more significant changes took place.

Table 1: Prisoner on prisoner assault incidents by establishment[1]

Prison	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*
Acklington	49	39	33	38	73	65	50
Albany	3	5	15	3	4	—	—
Altcourse	163	159	183	194	195	226	153
Ashfield	429	271	304	500	625	653	608
Ashwell	8	9	15	17	9	17	16
Askham Grange	1	—	1	—	1	1	2
Aylesbury	44	26	21	78	80	79	91
Bedford	49	44	49	41	55	36	55
Belmarsh	60	76	67	53	51	25	25
Birmingham	90	105	139	103	118	109	96
Blakenhurst	271	256	192	149	151	213	87
Blantyre House	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
Blundeston	36	39	26	14	15	33	30
Brinsford	281	304	326	344	187	187	324
Bristol	107	84	100	95	85	73	72
Brixton	130	122	106	73	40	60	78
Brockhill	23	25	19	28	20	8	7
Bronzefield	—	—	37	92	113	98	103
Buckley Hall	45	72	76	62	57	37	24
Bullingdon	59	40	36	59	45	68	87
Bullwood Hall	—	—	—	20	16	10	12
Camp Hill	47	67	51	54	55	35	—
Canterbury	9	5	12	15	13	20	30
Cardiff	46	50	53	50	47	25	19

Table 1: Prisoner on prisoner assault incidents by establishment[1]

Prison	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*
Castington	363	312	384	361	360	385	433
Channings Wood	12	21	22	38	53	54	56
Chelmsford	60	62	82	68	105	32	39
Coldingley	2		16	7	18	11	13
Cookham Wood	7	12	7	2	4	5	19
Dartmoor	25	[illegible]	11	29	26	26	38
Deerbolt	154	167	205	164	152	160	180
Doncaster	87	39	77	94	144	127	192
Dorchester	9	13	11	19	18	33	26
Dovegate	40	56	73	66	66	55	44
Dover	14	16	9	9	23	64	47
Downview	13	6	14	29	25	12	12
Drake Hall	3	13	7	9	6	20	8
Durham	65	59	79	89	146	127	120
East Sutton Park	—	—	3	—	—	—	1
Eastwood Park	14	23	31	51	47	15	10
Edmunds Hill	—	47	26	23	27	26	21
Elmley	88	84	104	134	100	125	122
Erlestoke	6	10	26	26	22	35	38
Everthorpe	9	5	20	42	65	69	61
Exeter	37	37	26	34	35	24	38
Featherstone	60	51	54	69	70	90	103
Feltham	459	569	576	549	476	428	552
Ford	7	2	20	17	6	6	10
Forest Bank	304	308	397	430	339	213	233
Foston Hall	17	19	26	26	23	28	9
Frankland	15	21	18	24	26	31	41
Full Sutton	8	15	27	37	45	52	52
Garth	36	23	27	59	63	65	91
Gartree	1	1	2	9	8	12	9
Glen Parva	222	241	230	269	341	364	464
Gloucester	56	36	62	41	56	47	63
Grendon / Spring Hill	4	5	4	2	2	5	1
Guys Marsh	43	41	49	43	57	73	68
Haslar	5	1	—	2	1	8	15
Haverigg	19	17	22	30	41	68	80
Hewell Cluster	—	—	—	—	—	—	67
Hewell Grange	—	1	6	—	1	3	1
High Down	85	97	119	101	134	118	157
Highpoint	130	82	91	72	74	80	82
Hindley	88	177	63	112	348	498	493
Hollesley Bay	179	45	1	4	2	3	2
Holloway	98	91	80	94	121	118	112
Holme House	71	89	69	86	98	124	96
Hull	84	91	168	166	121	140	87
Huntercombe	44	77	79	95	184	280	392
Kennet	—	—	—	—	—	5	27
Kingston	—	2	3	1	3	1	—
Kirkham	3	1	4	3	1	3	2
Kirklevington	—	—	—	—	1	—	2
Lancaster	12	11	4	10	10	20	13
Lancaster Farms	130	17	185	435	363	357	326
Latchmere House	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Leeds	96	148	137	109	104	92	81
Leicester	70	99	53	42	51	34	40
Lewes	89	104	60	62	73	63	130
Leyhill	—	3	5	6	7	4	4
Lincoln	81	68	47	56	60	87	121
Lindholme	17	43	42	33	37	52	57
Littlehey	31	32	37	41	39	38	22
Liverpool	94	109	118	127	162	226	222
Long Lartin	16	17	16	36	38	43	29
Low Newton	94	117	89	62	68	65	74
Lowdham Grange	20	19	20	37	73	41	47

Table 1: Prisoner on prisoner assault incidents by establishment[1]

Prison	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*
Maidstone	16	10	21	14	11	18	15
Manchester	191	217	182	142	172	127	143
Moorland	177	139	34	94	89	91	86
Moorland Open (Hatfield)	28	11	3	8	1	1	2
Morton Hall	7	13	16	9	15	12	8
Mount	17	25	16	55	48	45	77
New Hall	47	32	77	84	44	56	64
North Sea Camp	—	—	4	3	7	2	2
Northallerton	80	82	84	104	82	100	99
Norwich	132	128	11	20	40	13	4
Nottingham	61	66	74	64	55	85	82
Onley	516	509	161	152	153	216	223
Parc	198	233	227	247	241	315	381
Parkhurst	16	34	38	37	33	9	—
Pentonville	129	165	120	139	155	145	186
Peterborough	—	—	—	100	221	221	213
Portland	71	61	125	154	127	193	165
Preston	23	71	62	77	78	105	117
Ranby	39	38	19	30	52	42	67
Reading	7	23	25	76	57	45	25
Risley	39	60	107	103	102	108	112
Rochester	32	51	102	78	100	75	143
Rye Hill	10	19	40	53	[illegible]	66	35
Send	4	5	2	17	11	7	13
Shepton Mallet	10	3	3	1	—	4	2
Shrewsbury	35	44	41	50	29	39	40
Stafford	11	19	41	58	39	76	62
Standford Hill	2	3	2	7	5	4	3
Stocken	37	36	33	39	43	60	57
Stoke Heath	241	137	239	438	506	527	500
Styal	13	9	28	25	39	58	39
Sudbury	1	1	1	2	—	4	1
Swaleside	32	25	25	32	41	52	57
Swansea	9	16	16	20	30	19	26
Swinfen Hall	127	110	96	104	89	88	88
Thorn Cross	56	39	7	19	143	84	42
Usk/Prescoed	1	2	1	3	1	11	13
Verne	10	13	16	22	9	10	18
Wakefield	10	8	18	26	24	17	36
Wandsworth	54	51	74	77	60	95	59
Warren Hill	—	93	162	256	268	321	334
Wayland	23	65	51	59	49	58	56
Wealstun	9	14	7	9	28	24	41
Weare	48	52	55	23	—	—	—
Wellingborough	12	17	12	30	49	35	76
Werrington	114	129	104	139	144	141	197
Wetherby	41	175	414	492	403	353	389
Whatton	3	9	5	2	8	16	26
Whitemoor	30	18	15	21	22	31	27
Winchester	43	65	57	47	35	26	29
Wolds	52	27	41	23	30	49	50
Woodhill	7	27	51	67	57	52	93
Wormwood Scrubs	69	89	129	142	147	137	124
Wymott	—	8	3	9	24	30	28
Total	8,686	8,946	9,401	10,876	11,514	11,986	12,740

Table 2: Prisoner on prisoner assault incidents in female prisons[1]

Prison	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*
Askham Grange	1	—	1	—	1	1	2
Bronzefield	—	—	37	92	113	98	103
Downview	13	6	14	29	25	12	12
Drake Hall	3	13	7	9	6	20	8
East Sutton Park	—	—	3	—	—	—	1
Eastwood Park	14	23	31	51	47	15	10

Table 2: Prisoner on prisoner assault incidents in female prisons[1]

Prison	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*
Foston Hall	17	19	26	26	23	28	9
Holloway	96	91	80	94	121	110	112
Low Newton	94	117	99	62	60	65	74
Morton Hall	7	13	16	9	15	12	8
New Hall	47	32	77	64	44	56	64
Send	4	5	2	17	11	7	11
Styal	13	9	28	25	39	50	39
Total	311	328	411	400	513	400	455

Table 3: Prisoner on prisoner assault incidents in young offender institutions[1]

Prison	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*
Ashfield	429	271	304	500	625	653	606
Aylesbury	44	26	21	78	80	79	91
Brinsford	261	368	326	344	187	187	324
Castington	363	312	304	361	360	385	433
Cookham Wood	7	12	7	2	4	5	19
Deerbolt	154	167	205	164	152	160	186
Feltham	499	569	576	540	476	428	552
Glen Parva	222	241	230	209	341	364	464
Hindley	88	177	63	112	348	498	493
Huntercombe	44	77	79	95	184	203	392
Lancaster Farms	130	17	105	435	363	357	326
Northallerton	80	82	64	104	82	108	99
Portland	71	61	125	154	127	193	165
Reading	7	23	25	76	57	45	25
Rochester	32	51	102	78	100	75	143
Stoke Heath	241	137	239	438	506	527	500
Warren Hill	—	93	162	256	260	321	334
Werrington	114	129	106	139	144	141	197
Wetherby	41	175	414	492	403	353	309
Total	2,807	2,924	3,635	4,046	4,807	5,151	5,734

Table 4: Prisoner on officer assault incidents by prison

Establishment	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*
Acklington	2	3	3	5	7	9	9
Albany	2	3	—	—	3	—	—
Altcourse	45	43	40	44	36	50	43
Ashfield	124	62	71	152	127	86	128
Ashwell	1	1	—	—	4	2	3
Aylesbury	12	15	5	15	18	13	27
Bedford	17	13	10	14	27	12	13
Belmarsh	82	52	43	34	22	22	14
Birmingham	53	58	83	93	76	76	72
Blakenhurst	10	25	51	44	31	35	12
Blundeston	3	2	4	7	7	1	11
Brinsford	24	31	26	17	8	12	17
Bristol	51	25	45	28	41	14	34
Brixton	73	40	64	40	37	36	31
Brockhill	13	5	10	14	9	3	2
Bronzefield	—	—	17	85	77	41	80
Buckley Hall	12	36	16	23	10	11	9
Bullingdon	24	23	14	15	22	21	21
Bullwood Hall	1	—	—	8	6	2	5
Camp Hill	8	12	6	12	5	5	—
Canterbury	4	7	4	4	3	4	8
Cardiff	14	11	15	19	14	3	4
Castington	53	52	53	50	42	41	26
Channings Wood	3	4	10	8	7	16	17
Chelmsford	25	15	21	37	51	21	13
Coldingley	—	—	—	—	2	7	3
Cookham Wood	2	14	5	3	1	2	1
Dartmoor	10	9	5	11	7	8	15
Deerbolt	9	5	25	32	21	34	36
Doncaster	30	25	22	24	43	28	16

Table 4. Prisoner on officer assault incidents by prison

Establishment	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
Dorchester	2	4	2	9	9	8	8
Dovegate	29	46	75	58	55	41	15
Dover	—	10	6	3	4	12	26
Downview	10	6	7	29	9	11	6
Drake Hall	1	—	—	1	1	—	1
Durham	24	34	29	48	43	57	60
East Sutton Park	—	1	1	—	—	—	—
Eastwood Park	5	11	7	21	25	8	6
Edmunds Hill	—	9	20	9	13	2	5
Elmley	23	25	20	30	17	27	39
Erlestoke	—	—	2	2	2	9	6
Everthorpe	2	2	2	9	13	12	6
Exeter	12	11	2	7	11	8	6
Featherstone	17	8	18	5	9	16	7
Feltham	83	102	160	129	115	103	89
Ford	1	1	7	5	2	4	3
Forest Bank	39	62	75	82	50	33	28
Foston Hall	20	14	6	11	25	25	12
Frankland	12	5	13	9	10	19	13
Full Sutton	7	11	11	17	12	8	19
Garth	8	10	5	6	8	8	11
Gartree	—	—	1	2	3	1	3
Glen Parva	41	27	30	31	40	50	38
Gloucester	12	13	6	12	13	6	6
Grendon / Spring Hill	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
Guys Marsh	1	6	5	3	12	15	16
Haslar	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Haverigg	2	6	2	1	4	17	10
Hewell Cluster	—	—	—	—	—	—	9
Hewell Grange	—	—	—	2	—	1	—
High Down	59	45	56	35	69	66	99
Highpoint	46	20	18	13	22	20	25
Hindley	25	23	13	30	55	41	50
Hollesley Bay	18	4	3	—	—	—	—
Holloway	88	68	93	78	99	90	95
Holme House	13	20	18	27	24	20	14
Hull	16	27	29	33	23	30	20
Huntercombe	15	18	15	14	32	22	31
Kingston	2	1	—	1	2	—	—
Kirkham	1	—	—	—	—	2	1
Kirklevington	—	—	—	—	—	—	2
Lancaster	1	—	3	1	2	1	2
Lancaster Farms	20	9	27	46	51	31	16
Leeds	56	75	30	36	16	18	17
Leicester	15	11	5	7	16	7	9
Lewes	14	20	10	15	13	14	20
Leyhill	—	—	1	1	—	3	1
Lincoln	20	11	21	20	15	22	34
Lindholme	5	18	5	12	13	19	22
Littlehey	6	12	10	10	5	2	1
Liverpool	37	45	35	21	18	30	34
Long Lartin	7	5	5	15	11	15	9
Low Newton	27	16	24	27	19	18	24
Lowdham Grange	4	4	12	16	34	39	31
Maidstone	2	6	5	1	—	5	3
Manchester	53	58	50	60	65	77	69
Moorland	22	21	13	20	16	14	21
Morton Hall	4	1	3	2	5	1	—
Mount	5	13	7	8	15	20	20
New Hall	25	21	14	23	57	46	24
North Sea Camp	1	2	—	—	—	1	1
Northallerton	6	11	13	10	6	5	5
Norwich	24	24	17	18	17	1	3
Nottingham	12	15	20	12	22	43	27

Table 4: Prisoner on officer assault incidents by prison

Establishment	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*
Onley	68	86	13	27	29	23	12
Pare	27	55	57	44	48	48	53
Parkhurst	9	18	16	14	2	7	—
Pentonville	113	90	94	120	59	61	86
Peterborough	—	—	—	72	134	111	75
Portland	22	15	39	37	41	37	24
Preston	10	9	17	24	29	44	47
Ranby	9	8	3	3	16	16	26
Reading	6	7	16	14	11	9	11
Risley	15	18	26	32	28	23	21
Rochester	5	15	16	23	13	4	29
Rye Hill	18	20	38	65	47	41	14
Send	2	4	—	2	3	1	4
Shepton Mallet	2	1	—	—	—	1	1
Shrewsbury	3	11	3	3	6	5	4
Stafford	8	10	6	13	11	8	9
Standford Hill	—	—	—	—	1	1	1
Stocken	10	9	8	12	7	9	15
Stoke Heath	47	20	37	52	63	65	53
Styal	4	7	12	13	32	45	18
Sudbury	—	2	—	—	1	—	—
Swaleside	29	17	16	7	10	5	7
Swansea	5	6	4	3	5	—	3
Swinfen Hall	7	8	4	10	9	9	10
Thorn Cross	1	5	1	1	3	1	1
Usk/Prescoed	—	—	—	—	1	1	2
Verne	1	1	5	3	—	—	1
Wakefield	7	7	7	9	8	12	12
Wandsworth	79	73	84	86	36	31	36
Warren Hill	—	12	19	34	35	46	43
Wayland	7	11	8	2	9	10	18
Wealstun	—	2	—	3	3	6	12
Weare	9	10	6	4	—	—	—
Wellingborough	1	1	1	16	13	5	13
Werrington	5	21	18	19	20	12	30
Wetherby	9	11	70	66	56	35	39
Whatton	—	1	1	—	4	11	5
Whitemoor	22	15	16	18	10	22	18
Winchester	13	13	13	10	10	3	3
Wolds	12	7	10	3	8	2	7
Woodhill	16	35	39	71	68	52	39
Wormwood Scrubs	54	37	69	57	54	69	62
Wymott	—	1	—	4	4	4	9
Total	2,370	2,366	2,593	2,977	2,962	2,737	2,724

Table 5: Prisoner on officer assault incidents in female prisons

Establishment	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*
Bronzefield	—	—	17	85	77	41	80
Downview	10	6	7	29	9	11	6
Drake Hall	1	—	—	1	1	—	1
East Sutton Park	—	1	1	—	—	—	—
Eastwood Park	5	11	7	21	25	8	6
Foston Hall	28	14	8	11	25	25	12
Holloway	88	88	93	78	99	90	95
Low Newton	27	16	24	27	19	18	24
Morton Hall	4	1	3	2	5	1	—
New Hall	25	21	14	23	57	46	24
Send	2	4	—	2	3	1	4
Styal	4	7	12	13	32	45	18
Total	194	169	169	207	275	245	190

Table 6: Prisoner on officer assault incidents in young offender institutions

Establishment	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*
Ashfield	124	62	71	152	127	86	128
Aylesbury	12	15	5	15	18	13	27

Table 6. Prisoner on officer assault incidents in young offender institutions

Establishment	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*
Brinsford	24	31	26	17	8	12	17
Castington	53	52	53	50	42	41	28
Cookham Wood	2	14	5	3	1	2	1
Deerbolt	9	5	25	32	21	34	36
Feltham	83	102	169	129	115	103	89
Glen Parva	41	27	39	31	40	50	38
Hindley	25	23	13	30	55	41	50
Huntercombe	15	18	15	14	32	22	31
Lancaster Farms	20	9	27	46	51	31	16
Northallerton	6	11	13	10	6	5	5
Portland	22	15	39	37	41	37	24
Reading	6	7	16	14	11	9	11
Rochester	5	15	16	23	13	4	29
Stoke Heath	47	20	37	52	63	65	53
Thorn Cross	1	3	1	1	3	1	1
Warren Hill	—	12	19	34	35	46	43
Werrington	5	21	18	19	20	12	30
Wetherby	9	11	70	66	56	35	39
Total	509	473	677	775	758	649	696

[1] *Notes to assault incident tables:*

1. Recent assaults data from prisons using the new NOMIS computer system (Albany, Camp Hill and Parkhurst) are excluded.

2. "—" indicates that there have either been no assaults in that period or that the data are not available or applicable for that period (for example, if the prison has been using a different reporting system or has re-roled). Those prisons affected by re-roling are listed in the following table.

3. Assault risk is unevenly distributed around the prison estate and changes over time. The following list contains the major changes such as prisons opening, closing and re-roling etc. which affect assault figures. These need to be taken into account when interpreting changes from one year to the next.

Prison	*Year*	*Change*
Blakenhurst	2008	Merged to form HMP Hewell
Hewell Grange	2008	Merged to form HMP Hewell
Brockhill	2008	Merged to form HMP Hewell
Cookham Wood	2008	Female to Under 18 Male
Kennet	2007	First opened
Brockhill	2006	Female to Male
Bulwood Hall	2006	Female to Male
Peterborough	2005	First opened
Durham	2005	Female wing closed
Onley	2005	YOI to YOI+Cat C
Swinfen Hall	2005	YOI to YOI+Cat C
Weare	2005	Closed
Buckley Hall	2005	Female to Male
Edmunds Hill	2005	Female to Male
Winchester	2004	Female wing closed
Bronzefield	2004	First opened
Edmunds Hill	2003	First opened
Warren Hill	2003	First opened
Buckley Hall	2002	Male to Female
Rochester	2002	Adult + YOI to YOI
Downview	2002	Male to Female

Prisons: Finance

Mr. Burrowes: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what budget savings are planned in each *(a)* prison and *(b)* young offender institution over the next 12 months. [266861]

Mr. Hanson: The total planned savings requirement for 2009-10 from prisons and young offender institutions is £64.2 million, 3.4 per cent. of budget. These savings have not yet been allocated to prisons and are held at area level.

Victims of Crime

Mr. Grieve: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice whether victims of crime *(a)* are informed and *(b)* have their consent requested before their details are passed to private sector firms undertaking research for his Department on levels of confidence in the criminal justice system. [252814]

Maria Eagle: There are two key Government surveys that interview victims of crime about their satisfaction with and confidence in the criminal justice system (CJS).

The Home Office conducts the British crime survey (BCS) which looks at, among other things, the effectiveness and fairness of the CJS as viewed by the public, some of whom are victims.

The BCS is a general population sample in which addresses are randomly selected from the Post Office Address File by the survey contractor. Other than the postal address, no information about the selected household is held by the contractor prior to being approached to obtain permission for them to take part in the survey.

The Office for Criminal Justice Reform on behalf of the Ministry of Justice manage the Witness and Victim Satisfaction Survey (WAVES) which is a national survey designed to measure how satisfied victims and witnesses are with the service they get from the criminal justice system (CJS).

It is permitted to share limited details without consent under the provisions of section 33 of the Data Protection Act 1998, which allows certain data to be shared for research purposes, so long as certain conditions are in place. In order to obtain a large representative sample of victims and witnesses, consent is not obtained at the initial stage; however, very strict protocols are in place to ensure that these conditions are met.

The current contractor writes to all victims and witnesses identified by local criminal justice boards and selected to participate before the telephone call, giving them the option to opt out of the survey, in compliance with data protection guidelines. This gives victims and witnesses the opportunity to opt out at the first point of contact.

On calling those respondents who have not opted out, interviewers restate the purpose of the survey: to improve services to victims and witnesses in the future. Respondents are then assured that their responses will remain confidential and again asked if they are happy to participate. Reassurance is given at every stage of the interview process that responses given will remain anonymous.

The organisations undertaking both surveys are acting on behalf of the criminal justice system in order to help assess progress made at a local and national level against key CJS initiatives and to improve the future experiences of victims and witnesses. Both surveys have stringent measures in place to ensure individuals' anonymity is maintained and responses remain confidential. Respondents are given the opportunity to opt out at point of first contact with the research organisations.

Wymott Prison

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice for how long the absent governor of HM Prison Wymott has been on sick leave; how long the prison has been operating on a two governor basis; and how long he expects this arrangement to continue. [267588]

Mr. Hanson: It is not service policy to comment on individual members of staff.

The previous Governor stepped down from the post in December 2008 and was replaced shortly thereafter by the present incumbent. The establishment has at no time operated on a 'two Governor basis'.

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice whether the three latest roof-top protest incidents at HM Prison Wymott *(a)* involved the same prisoners and *(b)* took place in the same part of the prison. [267589]

Mr. Hanson: The seven prisoners involved in the three incidents were seven different individuals. The incidents all took place in the same part of the prison and new measures are in place to further restrict access to this roof.

Prisoners: Self-harm

Paul Holmes: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) how many incidents of self-harm by *(a)* male and *(b)* female prisoners held in each young offenders' institution were recorded in each year since 2003; [264771]

(2) how many incidents of self-harm by *(a)* male and *(b)* female prisoners in each prison establishment were recorded in each year since 2003. [264772]

Mr. Hanson: The National Offender Management Service has a broad, integrated and evidence-based prisoner suicide prevention and self harm management strategy that seeks to reduce the distress of all those in prison. This encompasses a wide spectrum of prison and Department of Health work around such issues as mental health, substance misuse and resettlement. Any prisoner identified as at risk of suicide or self-harm is cared for using the Assessment, Care in Custody and Teamwork (ACCT) procedures. Most self harm is not directly life threatening, but nevertheless can be extremely distressing for those who have to deal with it. A prisoner focused care planning system for those at risk, ACCT, (Assessment, Care in Custody and Teamwork), has helped prisons manage self harm. There are no easy answers to managing self harming behaviour but we remain committed to finding ways to improve further our management of it.

The information is set out as follows. The NOMS Incident Reporting System processes high volumes of data which are constantly being updated. The figures provide a good indication of overall numbers of incidents but should not be interpreted as absolute.

The instances of recorded self-harm by male prisoners, including young offenders (YOs) aged under 21, is summarised in table 1. Those incidents in current single-function young offender institutions (YOIs) are detailed in the notes of table 2.

Table 1: Self harm incidents by establishment (male)

Prison	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*
Belmarsh	75	123	90	76	88	83
Manchester	284	208	219	200	206	153
Woodhill	28	40	121	128	176	165
Albany	51	73	25	6	[1]—	[1]—
Dovegate	151	79	126	197	150	126
Garth	12	51	51	51	43	58
Gartree	9	1	5	12	43	19
Grendon/Spring Hill	10	2	[1]—	1	1	3
Kingston	[1]—	6	12	10	14	6
Lowdham Grange	4	16	15	29	40	70
Maidstone	9	11	20	10	15	13
Parkhurst	170	139	82	158	79	[1]—
Rye Hill	32	68	139	50	71	72
Swaleside	11	18	8	26	83	59
Acklington	20	40	75	97	45	112
Blundeston	17	19	11	16	14	17
Buckley Hall	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	43	23	24
Bullwood Hall	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	15	6	7
Edmunds Hill	[1]—	[1]—	11	17	22	21
Kennet	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	1	2

Table 1: Self harm incidents by establishment (male)

Prison	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*
Wolds	10	6	6	16	19	19
Ashwell	[1]—	6	9	[1]—	14	9
Camp Hill	58	22	28	15	20	[1]—
Channings Wood	9	6	18	44	23	34
Coldingley	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	1	3	2
Dartmoor	23	21	33	52	36	29
Erlestoke	3	[1]—	4	5	18	45
Everthorpe	1	[1]—	7	21	42	42
Featherstone	32	18	11	27	33	41
Guys Marsh	32	16	6	30	60	64
Haverigg	4	3	11	5	35	44
Highpoint	41	33	30	67	60	114
Lancaster	[1]—	[1]—	4	6	7	[1]—
Littlehey	46	108	123	158	105	78
Moorland	104	1	3	8	12	11
Mount	5	6	24	22	28	20
Ranby	8	4	8	27	39	68
Risley	18	20	45	36	33	32
Shepton Mallet	1	2	[1]—	1	2	1
Stafford	39	61	82	66	97	71
Stocken	26	11	35	25	37	[1]—
Usk/Prescoed	[1]—	[1]—	1	[1]—	3	2
Verne	9	3	7	4	[1]—	3
Wayland	9	24	42	55	32	59
Wealstun	14	9	34	30	34	35
Weare	18	23	8	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—
Wellingborough	19	14	2	27	18	49
Whatton	1	4	[1]—	2	17	31
Wymott	[1]—	4	47	61	63	59
Low Newton	6	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—
Frankland	31	95	165	217	339	429
Full Sutton	49	53	133	56	55	76
Long Lartin	2	4	11	11	89	127
Wakefield	44	85	126	176	114	93
Whitemoor	60	75	136	122	80	37
Dover	41	39	34	55	41	43
Haslar	4	3	2	4	2	7
Lindholme	9	7	18	36	57	59
Altcourse	165	160	111	219	210	245
Bedford	116	114	107	146	157	132
Birmingham	83	81	207	604	528	447
Blakenhurst	430	316	151	177	211	64
Bristol	95	156	185	102	147	147
Brixton	67	68	85	19	33	27
Bullingdon	18	21	39	25	69	112
Canterbury	2	12	10	10	5	15
Cardiff	54	99	73	96	25	14
Chelmsford	29	61	96	136	131	111
Doncaster	317	369	336	276	268	405
Dorchester	27	36	25	48	53	67
Durham	201	165	268	220	206	193
Elmley	22	82	139	92	96	102
Exeter	31	65	107	84	56	117
Forest Bank	214	257	197	333	317	257
Gloucester	97	83	110	83	88	95
Hewell Cluster	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	83
High Down	54	187	117	205	154	136
Holme House	40	74	63	102	81	78
Hull	143	176	199	110	107	115
Leeds	310	388	223	148	147	92
Leicester	122	143	136	170	153	84
Lewes	128	182	134	123	78	120
Lincoln	113	160	134	165	215	182
Liverpool	370	331	270	178	131	243

Table 1: Self harm incidents by establishment (male)

Prison	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*
Norwich	213	264	234	338	204	202
Nottingham	174	136	91	160	194	210
Parc	327	235	314	250	152	229
Pentonville	159	72	204	243	169	179
Preston	41	36	105	222	239	223
Shrewsbury	36	67	59	57	81	51
Swansea	45	28	61	57	34	82
Wandsworth	54	194	55	61	141	117
Winchester	171	210	149	136	52	104
Wormwood Scrubs	57	124	50	128	119	123
Onley	194	87	88	102	157	146
Swinfen Hall	26	74	51	81	124	127
Hollesley Bay	5	[1]—	[1]—	2	1	6
Moorland Open (Hatfield)	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	1
Ford	5	6	[1]—	5	3	[1]—
Kirkham	1	1	[1]—	2	[1]—	1
Leyhill	[1]—	1	2	5	4	3
North Sea Camp	1	[1]—	1	[1]—	1	2
Standford Hill	1	[1]—	2	[1]—	[1]—	1
Sudbury	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	1	[1]—	[1]—
Peterborough	[1]—	[1]—	121	199	200	273
Latchmere House	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	1	[1]—
Brinsford	66	23	71	102	83	85
Castington	87	83	92	104	64	62
Feltham	100	159	141	126	219	203
Hindley	77	36	160	71	41	81
Lancaster Farms	23	15	92	153	21	5
Stoke Heath	75	230	192	217	226	321
Rochester	9	52	15	46	47	84
Northallerton	27	59	14	35	30	27
Aylesbury	18	14	113	307	201	210
Deerbolt	68	59	100	106	86	122
Glen Parva	197	217	232	148	247	231
Portland	55	115	109	160	170	76
Reading	21	24	52	37	34	23
Ashfield	236	217	165	209	130	92
Cookham Wood	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	9
Warren Hill	8	20	13	15	12	75
Huntercombe	28	36	64	61	79	79
Werrington	2	10	25	20	11	52
Wetherby	[1]—	[1]—	59	34	10	23
Thorn Cross	1	3	1	2	3	[1]—

Table two details the instances of recorded self-harm by females, including young offenders (YOs) aged under-21. Female YOs are not held in stand-alone female YOIs. Rather they are held within the adult female prison population.

Table 2: Self harm incidents by establishment (female)

*Prison**	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*
Askham Grange	1	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—
Brockhill*	623	475	261	219	[1]—	[1]—
Bronzefield	[1]—	205	827	1,165	1,744	1,517
Buckley Hall*	758	1,079	596	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—
Bullwood Hall*	282	1,008	1,418	227	[1]—	[1]—
Cookham Wood*	72	162	197	126	182	[1]—
Downview	130	70	258	233	21	8
Drake Hall	8	7	28	17	41	42
Durham*	282	231	54	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—
Eastwood Park	683	1,139	2,441	2,074	1,965	2,584
Edmunds Hill*	156	209	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—
Foston Hall	24	120	616	608	1,160	919

Table 2: Self harm incidents by establishment (female)

Prison[2]	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*
Holloway	957	1,179	1,396	1,470	1,099	1,829
Low Newton	373	719	1,118	736	970	829
Morton Hall	60	19	29	67	50	77
New Hall	1,588	1,116	1,053	1,261	1,193	1,082
Peterborough	—	—	800	1,126	1,041	1,337
Send	54	75	97	177	158	233
Styal	368	1,050	1,388	1,574	1,235	2,103
Winchester*	18	8	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—

[1] Indicates that there have either been no self harm incidents in that period or that the data are not available or applicable for that period (for example, if the prison has been using a different reporting system or has re-roled). Those prisons affected by re-roling are listed in the following table.

Notes:

1. Figures refer to total numbers of self harm incidents and not numbers of individual prisoners.
2. Self harm incidents are as reported on the NOMS Incident Reporting System. Figures exclude recent numbers for C-NOMIS sites Albany, Camp Hill and Parkhurst.
3. Self harm risk is unevenly distributed around the prison estate and changes over time. The following list contains the major changes such as prisons opening, closing and re-rolling etc. which affect self harm figures. These need to be taken into account when interpreting changes from one year to the next.

	Prison	*Change*
2008	Blakenhurst	Merged to form HMP Hewell
2008	Hewell Grange	Merged to form HMP Hewell
2008	Brockhill	Merged to form HMP Hewell
2008	Cookham Wood	Female to under 18 Male
2007	Kennet	First opened
2006	Brockhill	Female to Male
2006	Bulwood Hall	Female to Male
2005	Peterborough	First opened
2005	Durham	Female wing closed
2005	Onley	YOI to YOI+Cat C
2005	Swinfen Hall	YOI to YOI+Cat C
2005	Weare	Closed
2005	Buckley Hall	Female to Male
2005	Edmunds Hill	Female to Male
2004	Winchester	Female wing closed
2004	Bronzefield	First opened
2003	Edmunds Hill	First opened

Young Offenders: Reoffenders

David Howarth: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what percentage of *(a)* people and *(b)* women aged from 18 to 24 years old who received a criminal conviction in the last 12 months had previously been convicted of one or more criminal offences when under the age of 18. [266149]

Mr. Hanson: Data held by the Ministry of Justice show that, of the 128,000 offenders aged between 18 and 24 who were sentenced by courts in England and Wales in 2007 and whose sentence was recorded on the police national computer, 40 per cent. (51,000) had previously been convicted under the age of 18. The equivalent figure for female offenders is 29 per cent. (4,600 out of a total of 15,900 offenders).

These figures have been drawn from the police's administrative IT system which, as with any large scale recording system, is subject to possible errors with data entry and processing. The figures are provisional and subject to change as more information is recorded by the police.

Overall the number of adult reoffences has fallen 23 per cent. between 2000 and 2006, and in particular there has been a reduction of 13 per cent. between 2005 and 2006. The number of reoffences classified as serious fell by 11.1 per cent. from 2000 to 2006.

The number of young people entering the criminal justice system for the first time is falling. The number in England fell from 103,955 in 2006-07, to 93,601 in 2007-08, a drop of 10 per cent.

The rate of reoffences committed fell by 1.5 per cent. from 125.0 offences per 100 offenders in 2005 to 123.1 in 2006. The rate of reoffences classified as serious fell by 8.0 per cent. from 0.90 serious offences per 100 offenders in 2005 to 0.83 in 2006.

Young Offenders: Restraint Techniques

Mr. Garnier: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many incidents involving the use of restraint by staff occurred in each young offender institution and secure training centre in England and Wales in each of the last 10 years. [265830]

Mr. Hanson: Restraint is only ever to be used by staff as a last resort, when all other approaches have either not succeeded or would not be appropriate.

The independent Review of Restraint in Juvenile Secure Settings, which was published together with the Government's response on 15 December 2008, made important recommendations about improving practice and making sure restraint is used as sparingly as possible. The Government and the Youth Justice Board are working together to implement those recommendations.

The following table sets out the number of recorded restrictive physical interventions (RPIs) on young people under the age of 18 in secure training centres and young offender institutions from 1 April 2007 to 31 December 2008. The Youth Justice Board has been collecting data against common definitions from April 2007. Comparable data are not available for earlier periods.

It is not possible to provide information on the number of recorded RPIs for 18 to 21-year-olds in young offender institutions as this is not held centrally in the format requested and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

	Operational capacity at 9 January 2009	*April 2007 to March 2008*	*April 2008 to December 2008*
Secure training centres			
Hassockfield	64	519	377

	Operational capacity at 9 January 2009	*April 2007 to March 2008*	*April 2008 to December 2008*
Medway	76	869	289
Oakhill	80	1,012	260
Rainsbrook	87	373	288
Young offender institutions			
Ashfield	400	431	446
Brinsford	112	161	82
Castington	168	187	172
Cookham Wood	110	17	16
Downview	16	29	37
Eastwood Park	16	28	19
Feltham	240	379	337
Foston Hall	16	54	30
Hindley	192	337	284
Huntercombe	360	404	369
Lancaster Farms	240	299	208
New Hall	26	60	84
Parc	64	65	97
Stoke Heath	202	145	118
Thorn Cross[1]	n/a	0	n/a
Warren Hill	222	212	249
Werrington	160	297	295
Wetherby	402	377	268

[1] The YJB stopped placing under 18s at HM YOI Thorn Cross from 1 April 2008

Source:

Data have been taken from YJB administrative computer systems

Among the recommendations referred to above, the review proposed an examination of the basis for the relatively low level of use of force per young person reported in YOIs.

Written Answers to Questions

Tuesday 31 March 2009

OLYMPICS

Departmental Absenteeism

David T.C. Davies: To ask the Minister for the Olympics how many staff of her Office were recorded absent due to non-medical reasons on *(a)* 2 February 2009 and *(b)* 3 February 2009; what estimate she has made of the (i) cost to her Office and (ii) number of working hours lost due to such absence; and what guidance her Office issued to staff in respect of absence on those days. [260897]

Tessa Jowell: Guidance was issued to staff that they should follow Cabinet Office policy on dealing with transport domestic emergencies.

Short periods of special leave with pay are authorised and recorded by managers and not held centrally. To obtain this information in relation to 2 and 3 February 2009 would represent a disproportionate cost.

Departmental Public Expenditure

Grant Shapps: To ask the Minister for the Olympics what *(a)* capital funds and *(b)* resource funds her Office has brought forward from its (i) 2009-10 and (ii) 2010-11 budgets for use in (A) 2008-09 and (B) 2009-10; and what schemes this funding is being used to support. [267395]

Tessa Jowell: No funds have been brought forward from the 2009-10 budget for use in 2008-09 or from the 2010-11 budget for use in 2009-10, and no schemes are being funded in this way.

As I said in the Annual Report on the London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games published in January 2009,

> "Our financial report shows that, with a continued, disciplined search for savings and a sensible use of the contingency funds set aside to manage risks, we remain within budget despite the economic downturn. It will not be exceeded".

Olympic Games 2012: Facilities

Mr. Malins: To ask the Minister for the Olympics pursuant to the answer of 8 December 2008, *Official Report,* column 3W, on Olympic Games 2012: facilities, if she will place in the Library a copy of the full final KPMG report on Olympic venues. [266657]

Tessa Jowell *[holding answer 26 March 2009]:* The Olympic Delivery Authority (ODA) published a redacted version of the KPMG findings on 19 December 2008. A copy of the KPMG findings, which looked at whether cost savings could be made on the 2012 temporary venues, is available in the House Library. For continuing reasons of commercial sensitivity and so as to not prejudice the ODA's and the London Organising Committee of the Olympic and Paralympic Games discussions and negotiations on contracts they have not yet awarded for the temporary venues, I am unable to place a non-redacted version of the KPMG findings in the Library.

Mr. Malins: To ask the Minister for the Olympics pursuant to the answer of 8 December 2008, *Official Report,* column 3W, on Olympic Games 2012: facilities, what the *(a)* initial estimated and *(b)* outturn cost to the public purse was of the KPMG report on Olympic venues. [266804]

Tessa Jowell *[holding answer 26 March 2009]:* The Olympic Delivery Authority (ODA) commissioned KPMG from its Financial Services Panel via a call off contract, on an agreed hourly rate, at an estimated cost of £105,000 plus VAT. Additional scope was added to the original remit, to include more venues and more detailed consultation, and therefore the final cost of the KPMG work to the ODA is £175,000 plus VAT.

SCOTLAND

China

Pete Wishart: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what discussions he has had with Scottish Executive Ministers in advance of his visit to China as part of the Scottish Council for Development and Industry trade delegation. [267533]

Ann McKechin: My officials ensured that the Scottish Executive were aware of my right hon. Friend's visit and will brief them on return from the visit so we can share lessons learned.

Departmental Energy

Greg Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland how much *(a)* electricity, *(b)* gas and *(c)* other fuel was used by his Department in each of the last 10 years. [267327]

Ann McKechin: The Scotland Office was established on 1 July 1999. Since that date the Scotland Office have only incurred fuel costs on electricity and gas, as shown in the table:

	Electricity	*Gas*
1999-2000[1]	11,855	43,024
2000-01	22,807	78,224
2001-02	19,526	94,866
2002-03	28,439	88,244
2003-04	23,703	88,085
2004-05	23,372	96,362
2005-06	21,650	106,883
2006-07	36,488	105,968
2007-08	26,481	78,669

[1] Part year

Departmental Information Officers

Mr. MacNeil: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland how many *(a)* communications and *(b)* press officers his Department has. [268105]

Ann McKechin: The Scotland Office employs two press and communications officers.

Departmental Public Expenditure

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what capital funding his Department has brought forward from its *(a)* 2009-10 and *(b)* 2010-11 budgets for use in (i) 2008-09 and (ii) 2009-10; and to what ends this funding has been allocated. [266206]

Ann McKechin: The Scotland Office has no plans to bring forward any of its capital funding from 2009-10 or 2010-11 to use in either 2008-09 or 2009-10.

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland how much capital spending is planned to be brought forward by his Department to *(a)* 2008-09 and *(b)* 2009-10. [266301]

Ann McKechin: The Scotland Office has no plans to bring forward any of its capital funding to use in either 2008-09 or 2009-10.

Dr. Cable: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what his latest estimate is of his Department's capital expenditure in *(a)* 2008-09, *(b)* 2009-10, *(c)* 2010-11 and *(d)* 2011-12; and if he will make a statement. [268126]

Ann McKechin: The Scotland Office has a capital provision of £100,000 each year and does not expect to exceed this figure in any of the years in question.

Departmental Publications

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what estimate he has made of the *(a)* production and printing and *(b)* other costs to his Department of producing its most recent (i) departmental annual report and (ii) autumn performance report. [266686]

Ann McKechin: The cost of producing and printing the Scotland Office and Office of the Advocate-General's 2008 annual report was £3,510.69. The Offices have no public service agreements; the Offices performance indicators are published in our annual reports.

Departmental Recycling

Mr. Rob Wilson: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland how much and what proportion of its waste his Department recycled in each of the last five years. [266615]

Ann McKechin: The Scotland Office has two buildings, Dover House in London and 1 Melville Crescent, Edinburgh. Waste removal and recycling for 1 Melville Crescent is arranged under a Scottish government contract and no separate data are available. Data for Dover House are included in the Ministry of Justice and UK Government performance reports.

Departmental Standards

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what estimate he has made of the cost to his Department of measuring compliance with its targets under its public service agreements in the last 12 months for which figures are available. [266706]

Ann McKechin: The Scotland Office has no public service agreements; the Office's performance indicators are published in our annual reports.

Performing Arts

John Mason: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland pursuant to the answer of 19 March 2009, *Official Report*, column 1288W, what the cost was to his Department of engaging musicians on each of those two occasions. [267537]

Ann McKechin: The Scotland Office engaged a quartet in January 2007, at a cost of £600 and a musician to play the Clàrsach in September 2007, at a cost of £80.

DEFENCE

Afghanistan: Drugs

Mrs. Curtis-Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what steps he has taken to curb the local drug industry in Afghanistan. [266891]

Bill Rammell: I have been asked to reply.

As the G8 Partner Nation with Afghanistan for Counter Narcotics the UK is committed to supporting the Afghan Government's National Drug Control Strategy (NDCS). This is a comprehensive approach that includes strengthening state institutions, developing licit livelihoods and disrupting the drugs trade.

UK support for the key components of the NDCS includes:

> The establishment the Afghan Ministry of Counter Narcotics which has been supported with a £12.5 million capacity programme since December 2004;
>
> The promotion of licit alternatives to poppy—the Department for International Development has provided £35 million supporting alternative livelihoods in 2008-09;
>
> £29 million in 2008-09 has been devoted to supporting interdiction and law enforcement efforts, including the Counter Narcotics Police of Afghanistan—the lead drugs enforcement agency in Afghanistan and supporting the Criminal Justice Task Force which secured 133 convictions, from June to November 2008.

Progress has been made. In 2008 there was a 19 per cent. reduction in cultivation to 157,000 hectares, and the number of poppy-free provinces increased to 18—over half of the country's 34 provinces.

Afghanistan: Peacekeeping Operations

Mr. Holloway: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence with reference to the answer of 3 November 2008, *Official Report*, column 1518W, how many rounds of *(a)* 0.338 ammunition of all natures, *(b)* 12 bore shotgun ammunition, *(c)* 30 mm armoured fighting vehicle ammunition of all natures, *(d)* 30 mm attack helicopter ammunition of all natures and *(e)* 105 mm ammunition of all natures were used in Operation Herrick 7. [268012]

Mr. Hutton: Officials are collating and validating the data needed and this is taking longer than anticipated. I will write to the hon. Member when this work is complete and place a copy of my letter in the Library of the House.

Departmental Buildings

Dr. Pugh: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what buildings are owned or operated by his Department under a private finance initiative (PFI) arrangement; and which companies are involved with each such PFI arrangement. [267414]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: This information is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost. Details of the Ministry of Defence's signed PFI deals as well as the equity stakeholders in the project companies are recorded centrally on the Treasury's website at:

http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/ppp_pfi_stats.htm

Departmental Public Expenditure

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much capital spending is planned to be brought forward by his Department to *(a)* 2008-09 and *(b)* 2009-10. [266295]

Mr. Hutton: I refer the hon. Member to the answer my hon. Friend the Minister for the Armed Forces, gave on 27 January 2009, *Official Report*, column 308W, to the hon. Member for Yeovil (Mr. Laws).

Departmental Scientists

Ian Stewart: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what his Department's budget for scientific advice and research is in 2008-09; for what purposes the equivalent budget for 2007-08 was used; and how many people employed in his Department have a science or engineering degree. [260765]

Mr. Quentin Davies: The Ministry of Defence (MOD) publishes information on its overall expenditure on research in UK Defence Statistics, a copy of which is in the Library of the House and is available online at:

http://www.dasa.mod.uk/applications/newWeb/www/index.php?page=67&pubType=1&thiscontent=10&date=2008-09-24

The majority of the research expenditure is undertaken by the science/innovation/technology Top Level Budget. The budget for this organisation, including operating costs, was laid out in the Winter Supplementary Estimates 2008-09 as £502 million.

The wide ranging research activities undertaken by MOD in 2007-08 are described in the MOD Annual Report and Accounts 2007-2008 Volume 1: Annual Performance Report (paragraphs 171 to 183). A copy of this document is also in the Library of the House and is available online at:

http://www.mod.uk/DefenceInternet/AboutDefence/CorporatePublications/AnnualReports/MODAnnualReports0708/

In a recent survey of graduate qualifications in MOD and Dstl, the MOD's Trading Fund Agency undertaking research activities, over 3,350 members of staff declared their first degree to be in either science or engineering. However, this information has been provided voluntarily and is therefore likely to be incomplete.

European Space Situational Awareness Project

Mrs. Curtis-Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what role the Government are playing in the European Space Situational Awareness Project. [266897]

Mr. Lammy: I have been asked to reply.

The UK subscribed to the European Space Agency Space Situational Awareness (SSA) Programme at the ministerial meeting in November 2008. Officials from the British National Space Centre attend the Programme Board that is currently defining the overall programme of activities to be undertaken. The European Defence Agency (EDA) is undertaking activity to determine possible European Military SSA requirements and MOD officials are observing the EDA work in this area.

Gulf of Guinea: Piracy

Mrs. Curtis-Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what steps he is taking to reduce piracy attacks in the Gulf of Guinea; what assessment he has made of the reasons for the attacks taking place; and if he will make a statement. [267358]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The UK Government continues to encourage the Nigerian Government to take forward a holistic peace process for the Niger Delta, which addresses issues of security, development and good governance impacting on the Niger Delta and the Gulf of Guinea more widely.

We are working with the Nigerians to enhance the capability of their armed forces to deter and manage attacks in the Niger Delta. We have developed a focussed training package on operational planning and effective in-shore small boat patrolling and in the coming financial year will continue to support the development of a Joint Maritime Security Training Centre (JMSTC) near Lagos.

We have been monitoring piracy in the Gulf of Guinea closely. The attacks stem from a variety of causes, principally a combination of criminality and militancy.

Somalia: Piracy

Mrs. Curtis-Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what assessment he has made of the effectiveness of *(a)* Coalition Task Force (i) 150 and (ii) 151 and *(b)* UK forces' contribution to those task forces; and what the cost of that contribution has been. [267357]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: There has been an enduring maritime security presence to counter illicit activity in the Arabian Sea/Indian Ocean area since November 2001. Combined Task Force 150 has had considerable success in countering drug and people trafficking, and is the longest standing maritime security mission in the region.

Combined Task Force 151 was established in January 2009 and has a counter piracy mandate. It is too early to assess the effectiveness of this operation, however it has successfully suppressed acts of piracy, and has transferred 16 suspected pirates to regional states for prosecution.

The UK contribution to the Combined Maritime Forces Operations CTF 150 and 151 is provided by a permanently allocated destroyer or frigate. HMS Portland is currently assigned to this task. Additionally, the UK provides the Deputy Commander of the Combined Maritime Forces.

Seasonal fluctuations in piracy events and changing tactics by the pirates need to be taken into account in assessing the effectiveness of counter-piracy operations. As well as military operations, the adoption of recommended avoidance techniques by merchant vessels, and the utilisation of the internationally recognised transit corridor, are also having a positive affect.

The cost of the Royal Navy's long standing commitment to CTF 150, and more recently 151, could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

SOLICITOR-GENERAL

Prosecutions: Supermarkets

Ms Keeble: To ask the Solicitor-General how many times the five largest supermarket chains have been prosecuted for offences relating to the sale of alcohol in each of the last five years. [266816]

Mr. Alan Campbell: I have been asked to reply.

The Court Proceedings Database held by the Ministry of Justice holds information on defendants (persons and others) proceeded against, found guilty and sentenced for criminal offences in England and Wales. Although the category of 'others' includes companies and public bodies, etc. it is not possible to separately identify supermarkets from others.

TRANSPORT

A120: Essex

Mr. Newmark: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what advice the Highways Agency has given to *(a)* his Department and *(b)* other interested parties in respect of the upgrade of the A120 between Braintree and Marks Tey. [268007]

Paul Clark: Following the 2005 public consultation on proposals to upgrade the A120 between Braintree and Marks Tey, the Highways Agency has undertaken a review of comments made by the public, which included a number of suggestions for alternative routes. This resulted in further work investigating these suggestions, as well as undertaking further examination of their own proposals. This work has been completed and a summary of the outcomes has been received by the Department for Transport.

We shall be reviewing the latest advice from the East of England Regional Assembly on regional funding priorities before coming to a decision on how this scheme should be progressed.

Heavy Goods Vehicles: Testing

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) if he will make an assessment of the effect on the number of heavy goods vehicles travelling along the A650 and A647 of the closure of the vehicle testing station at Steeton; [267561]

(2) if he will make an assessment of the effect on expenditure by business on fuel of the closure of the vehicle testing stations *(a)* at Steeton and *(b)* across the country as a whole; [267562]

(3) if he will make an assessment of the effects on the expenditure by *(a)* Bradford city council and *(b)* other public bodies on fuel from the closure of the vehicle testing stations (i) at Steeton and (ii) across the whole country; [267563]

(4) if he will make an environmental impact assessment of the closure of the vehicle testing stations at *(a)* Steeton and *(b)* across the country as a whole [267568]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The Vehicle and Operator Services Agency (VOSA) and the Department for Transport completed an assessment of their operations to ensure that VOSA meets the requirements of a trading fund. To ensure these are met and to reduce the overcapacity identified in its national estate network VOSA:

used a matrix to identify and rank potential closure candidates,

carried out detailed analysis of closure impacts upon the customer base and at adjacent test facilities, and

completed a business case.

These did not include assessments as specifically requested and to do so could be done only with disproportionate cost being incurred.

Railways: Accidents

Mr. Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many rail services were *(a)* cancelled and *(b)* delayed following high vehicles striking low bridges in the last five years. [267301]

Paul Clark: The Department for Transport does not hold information about delays and cancellations specific to high vehicles striking low bridges.

Train performance data for the rail network are collected and held by Network Rail. The hon. Member may wish to contact Network Rail's chief executive at the following address for a response to his question:

Iain Coucher
Chief Executive
Network Rail
Kings Place
90 York Way
London
N1 9AG

Mr. Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many accidents involving buses and other high vehicles striking low bridges occurred in the last five years. [267302]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The numbers of reported personal injury road accidents involving buses, coaches and heavy good vehicles (HGVs) which struck a bridge on a public highway in the last five years are given in the table:

	Number of accidents[1]
2003	61
2004	59
2005	60
2006	57
2007	82

[1] Includes both roof and side impact to the bridge

Information on the height of bridges or vehicles is not collected.

Roads: Accidents

Mr. Holloway: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many *(a)* lone drivers in each age group and *(b)* drivers in each age group with passengers were killed in motor vehicle accidents in the last 12 months for which figures are available; and if he will make a statement. [267757]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The numbers of *(a)* drivers of vehicles with no passenger casualties and *(b)* drivers of vehicles with one or more passenger casualties that were killed in reported personal injury road accidents in Great Britain in 2007 are given in the table, broken down by driver age group.

The number of uninjured passengers involved in accidents is not recorded.

	Number of fatalities	
	Driver[1] killed with no passenger casualties	*Driver[1] killed with one or more passenger casualties*
Age group		
0-16	1	2
17-19	81	56
20-24	102	71
25-29	80	24
30-34	64	25
35-39	67	15
40-49	106	31
50-59	96	22
60-69	55	25
70+	89	35
Total[2]	743	306

[1] Includes drivers of all motor vehicles with exception of motor cycles

[2] Includes cases where age was not reported

ELECTORAL COMMISSION COMMITTEE

Voting Behaviour

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the hon. Member for Gosport, representing the Speaker's Committee on the Electoral Commission what recent estimate the Electoral Commission has made of how many and what proportion of people aged (i) 18 to 24, (ii) 25 to 34, (iii) 35 to 44, (iv) 45 to 54, (v) 55 to 64, (vi) 65 to 74, (vii) 75 to 84, (viii) 85 to 94 and (ix) 95 years and over voted in the last general election. [267886]

Sir Peter Viggers: The Electoral Commission informs me that the total number of valid votes cast at the 2005 general election was 27,148,510, representing a turnout of 61.4 per cent. No information is held on the numbers who voted in each age group.

The commission's report on turnout at the 2005 UK parliamentary general election included the two following estimates for turnout by age group. Both come from surveys: one conducted by MORI based on an aggregation of their pre-election surveys, with a total sample of approximately 18,000 adults; and one conducted by the British Election Study (BES) post-election survey of approximately 4,700 adults.

	Turnout (Percentage)	
Age group	*Ipsos MORI*	*BES*
18-24	37	45
25-34	48	52
35-44	61	71
45-54	64	76
55-64	71	84
65+	75	87

Information is not available for separate groups above the age of 65.

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Circuses: Animal Welfare

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if he will bring forward legislation to prohibit the use of non-domesticated animals in circuses; and if he will make a statement. [265344]

Jane Kennedy: There is no evidence that the use of non-domesticated animals in circuses is by its nature cruel or compromises an animal's welfare.

TREASURY

Departmental Data Protection

Patrick Mercer: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer with reference to the Interim Report on Data Handling Procedures in Government, 17 December 2007, if he will issue guidance on the use of removable electronic media by staff in his Department. [267234]

Angela Eagle: HM Treasury continually reassesses its security standards, procedures and risks to ensure that it is providing high levels of security for its data and other assets. Changes have been implemented in response to the Interim Report on Data handling Procedures, and the intention is to further strengthen existing procedures during 2009.

Departmental Empty Property

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the change in the annual cost to his Department of maintaining the empty public buildings owned by his Department as a result of the April 2008 changes to empty property rate relief. [267129]

Angela Eagle: The Treasury actively manages its estate, and ensures value for money through managing holdings until the leases expire and, wherever possible, disposing of empty properties. The cost in 2008-09 of maintaining properties was £119,000, of which £41,000 was a result of the April 2008 changes to empty property rate relief.

Departmental Publications

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the *(a)* production and printing and *(b)* other costs to his Department of producing its most recent (i) departmental annual report and (ii) autumn performance report. [266685]

Angela Eagle: The Treasury's most recent annual report was published in July 2008 and cost of production and printing was £3,585.

The Treasury's most recent autumn performance report was published in December 2008 as primarily an online document, and the cost of production and printing was £365.

Production of these reports involves many teams across the Treasury. As such, it is not possible to isolate other costs relating to the production of these documents without incurring disproportionate costs.

Departmental Standards

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the cost to his Department of measuring compliance with its targets under its public service agreements in the last 12 months for which figures are available. [266704]

Angela Eagle: Work is undertaken by teams across the Treasury which impacts on delivery of its objectives and PSAs. As such, it is not possible to separate the costs of compliance measurement from those of managing performance without incurring disproportionate costs.

In accordance with central guidance, the Treasury publishes information on cost and resource allocation against its objectives as part of its resource accounts. The most recent resource accounts was published in July 2008.

Government Departments: Standards

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many staff in his Department are responsible for *(a)* devising and *(b)* monitoring performance against public service agreement targets; and what the annual cost of such staff is. [266583]

Angela Eagle: For the 2007 Comprehensive Spending Review period, HM Treasury is lead Department for one public service agreement (PSA):

> "Halve the number of children in poverty by 2010-11, on the way to eradicating child poverty by 2020 (PSA 9)".

Work is undertaken by teams across the Treasury which impacts on delivery of this PSA. In addition, DWP, DCSF, HMRC, CLG and DEFRA are delivery partners for this PSA. As such, it is not possible to isolate costs for this PSA without incurring disproportionate costs.

More information on the Treasury's resources can be found in its Resource Accounts.

Members: Correspondence

Mr. Burns: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer when his Department plans to reply to the letter of 30 January 2009 from the hon. Member for West Chelmsford Ref: 4/32912/2009, on his constituent, Mr. Simon Payne of Chelmsford. [illegible]

Angela Eagle: I replied to the hon. Member on 23 February.

Motor Vehicles: Government Assistance

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what steps the Government is taking to provide assistance for car finance businesses during the economic downturn. [illegible]

Angela Eagle: The Minister for Trade and Investment (Lord Davies) is exploring with the motor finance industry possible options to help improve the flow of liquidity to car finance companies. The issues are complex but discussions on this front are continuing.

Mutual Societies

Mr. Gordon Prentice: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what plans he has to encourage the growth of mutual organisations in the financial sector. [266821]

Ian Pearson: The Government fully support the mutual sector and have set up an £80 million Growth Fund for Credit Unions to enable them to lend to their members and increase the capacity of the sector to serve the financially excluded. It will shortly be publishing a Legislative Reform Order to update the legislative framework for credit unions and industrial and provident societies.

Parliament recently passed the Mutual Societies (Transfers) Order 2009 which will enable building societies to transfer their business to the subsidiary of another mutual, as an alternative to full demutualisation. This is the Treasury's first use of the powers in the Building Societies (Funding) Mutual Societies (Transfers) Act 2007, a Private Members Bill supported by the Government.

Private Equity: EU Action

Mr. Todd: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what assessment he has made of the merits of proposals for EU regulation of private equity and hedge funds; and if he will make a statement. [267512]

Ian Pearson: The Government welcome the European Commission's decision to bring forward proposals in this important area and look forward to working with the Commission and other EU member states to reach an agreed position.

Tax Allowances: Motor Vehicles

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what recent representations he has received from the UK premium car industry on changes to their write-down allowance; and if he will make a statement. [266572]

Angela Eagle: Treasury Ministers and officials receive representations from a wide variety of organisations in the public and private sectors as part of the process of policy development and delivery. As was the case with previous Administrations, it is not the Government's practice to provide details of all such representations.

Tax Credit Office: Correspondence

Mr. Steen: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will instruct the Chief Executive of the Tax Credit Office to reply to the hon. Member for Totnes' letters of 5 February and 3 March 2009, on the issues surrounding Mrs. Yvonne Allen of Salcombe's working tax credits following the loss of her records by HM Revenue and Customs. [267857]

Mr. Timms: HM Revenue and Customs have advised me that they will reply to the hon. Member shortly and apologise for the delay in doing so.

TNT

Mr. Weir: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what discussions Ministers have had with the Financial Services Authority in respect of TNT since 2005. [267535]

Ian Pearson: Ministers and officials meet the FSA on a regular basis to discuss a wide range of issues.

Mr. Weir: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether the Government have received representations from the European Commission on the under-reporting of profits by subsidiary companies of TPG in *(a)* Belgium, *(b)* the Netherlands, *(c)* Germany and *(d)* France between 2004 and 2006. [267536]

Mr. Timms: HMRC are not able to provide such information about individual businesses because to do so would breach taxpayer confidentiality.

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Council Tax

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the *(a)* 20 highest and *(b)* 20 lowest proposed average (i) borough and (ii) county council tax rises in percentage terms between 2008-09 and 2009-10 were. [268135]

John Healey: Details of the changes in percentage terms in council tax between 2008-09 and 2009-10 can be found in the statistical release "Levels of council tax set by local authorities England 2009-10" that was published on the Communities and Local Government website on 26 March 2009. It can be found at:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/corporate/statistics/counciltax200910

Departmental Energy

Greg Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what steps have been taken by *(a)* her Department and *(b)* its agencies to improve the thermal efficiency of their buildings in the last 12 months. [266752]

Mr. Khan: The Department has made a number of changes to the thermal efficiency of its buildings over the last 12 months. These include fitting solar film to glazing to reduce solar gain and improved housekeeping to ensure doors are closed in back of house areas to reduce draughts.

Of the Department's agencies, the Fire Service College has installed thermal insulation in the ceiling voids of recently refurbished offices, and the Planning Inspectorate has added solar film to windows and replaced sliding doors to reduce cold air ingress.

As well as improving thermal efficiency, the Department has taken numerous other measures to reduce energy consumption in its buildings. Gas and electricity consumption was reduced in Communities' main headquarter building in 2007-08 by 37 per cent. and 22 per cent. respectively, compared to the previous year.

Greg Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much *(a)* electricity, *(b)* gas and *(c)* other fuel has been used by (i) her Department and (ii) each of its agencies since her Department's establishment. [267340]

Mr. Khan: Communities and Local Government and its agencies have used the following amounts of electricity, gas and fuel since the Department's inception.

			kWh
		2006-07	*2007-08*
London Headquarters[1]	Electricity	13,018,289	10,850,743
	Gas	8,769,886	6,329,978
Executive Agencies[2]	Electricity	12,889,192	11,751,470
	Gas	17,752,968	18,084,384

[1] These figures do not include data from the regional Government offices.
[2] These figures include data from the Department's office and non-office estate.

Central Government Departments and their Executive agencies are required to report performance data on their energy consumption for their office estate annually as part of the Sustainable Development in Government (SDiG) reporting process, to assess performance against the target to reduce carbon emissions from offices by 12.5 per cent. by 2010-11.

The latest assessment of Government's performance against these targets was published by the Sustainable Development Commission on 12 December 2008 at:

http://www.sd-commission.org.uk/sdig2008/

Empty Property

Margaret Moran: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what estimate she has made of the number of empty dwellings owned by banks and building societies in each year since 2000; and what her most recent estimate is of the number owned by building societies. [267148]

John Healey: This information is not collected centrally.

Fire Services: Manpower

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what estimate she has made of the minimum number of staff required *(a)* in each regional control centre and *(b)* to staff the national network of regional control centres to meet the needs of national resilience; on what date each regional control centre was completed; what expenditure has been incurred in respect of each regional control centre since its completion; what estimate she has made of such costs in the period between completion and cut over for each centre; and what expenditure her Department has incurred on consultants engaged to work on the FiReControl project to date. [267875]

Mr. Khan: Information on staffing is included in the "FiReControl Business Case: the National Case" published in November 2008—a copy of the Business Case is available in the House Library. The actual number of staff to be employed within each regional control centre is a matter for each regional local authority controlled company who will be the employers.

To the end of February 2009 the cost of consultancy services for the FiReControl project totalled £45.3 million and this is taken into account within the overall project implementation costs outlined in the Business Case.

The costs from practical completion of each regional control centre until the end of February are set out in the following table:

	Cost (£)
NE	2,077,812.95
EM	2,355,080.31
SW	2,066,107.64
WM	1,229,656.29
SE	954,928.46
NW	666,730.56
Y&H	422,224.78
EoE	313,686.38

The anticipated costs per month until the current planned cutover dates are:

	Cost (£)
NE	148,939.00
EM	154,038.83
SW	154,893.58
WM	167,824.67
SE	173,668.08
NW	155,403.67
Y&H	152,662.67
EoE	166,064.17
London	118,744.33

Fire Services: Trade Unions

Mr. Dhanda: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what steps her Department has taken in response to allegations made to it of bullying by members of one trade union of members from another trade union in the Fire and Rescue Service. [267681]

Mr. Khan: The Government are firmly committed to eradicating bullying and all other forms of unacceptable workplace behaviour, whatever their cause, from the culture of the Fire and Rescue Service.

In May 2008 Communities and Local Government published the 10-year Fire and Rescue Service Equality and Diversity Strategy. The strategy requires fire and rescue services to tackle current inequalities, promote equality, diversity and fairness and establish a culture which enables the service to meet the needs of all our diverse communities.

The strategy states that bullying and harassment will not be tolerated in any part of the organisation. It includes both a specific requirement on fire and rescue services to:

> "ensure that bullying, harassment, unfair discrimination and unacceptable behaviours are dealt with fairly, quickly and transparently" and on staff to " challenge and report bullying, harassment, unfair discrimination and unacceptable behaviours."

All the unions representing fire and rescue service staff were involved in the development of the strategy and formally confirmed their commitment to supporting the implementation of the strategy through the leadership of their organisations. The 2009 Equality and Diversity Report was published on 10 March. This report includes a National Action Plan developed to support the implementation of the strategy. One of the expected outcomes of the Action Plan is an improvement in workplace culture.

Non-Domestic Rates: Business

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what estimate she has made of business rates as a proportion of turnover for *(a)* independent high street retail outlets, *(b)* chain high street retail outlets and *(c)* out-of-town supermarkets. [266591]

John Healey: No such estimates have been made by Communities and Local Government.

Mr. Oaten: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many businesses in each constituency will be paying more than *(a)* 10 per cent., *(b)* 15 per cent., *(c)* 20 per cent. and *(d)* 25 per cent. more in business rates in 2009-10 than in 2008-09 following the end of transitional relief. [266799]

John Healey: This information is not collected centrally.

Anne Milton: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what assessment has been made of the effect of the end of transitional business relief on small and medium-sized enterprises in *(a)* the Guildford Borough Council area, *(b)* the Waverley Borough Council area and *(c)* England. [266913]

John Healey: It is not possible to separately identify small and medium-sized enterprises entitled to and therefore potentially affected by the end of transitional business rate relief.

Parking: Fees and Charges

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the policy of *(a)* her Department and *(b)* its agencies is on whether payment of any workplace parking levy in respect of staff who are entitled to a workplace parking space in an area which is liable to such a levy should be made by (i) the public authority or (ii) the staff member. [263691]

Mr. Khan: There are no workplace parking levy schemes in operation in England. Until a scheme may be introduced and the regulations applying to that scheme are known, it is not possible to provide further information.

Railways: East of England

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what recent representations her Department has received on the effects on local businesses and residents of the re-opening of the railway line between Bedford and Cambridge. [267639]

Mr. Khan: The Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government and her Department has received no representations about the effects on local business and residents of the re-opening of the railway line between Bedford and Cambridge.

Regional Planning and Development: Equality

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what estimate she has made of the cost of conducting equality impact assessments in respect of *(a)* the Government Office for the East of England and *(b)* Opportunity Peterborough in 2008-09; and if she will make a statement. [267756]

Mr. Khan: Within Government offices equality impact assessments are undertaken by the line manager responsible for any change to an area of policy or approach. Due to the differences in grades and salaries and time needed to undertake initial screening to full impact assessments it is not possible for Government office in the east of England to estimate the cost of equality impact assessments in 2008-09.

Communities and Local Government's Funding Agreement for Opportunity Peterborough sets out a requirement to have in place a race equality scheme and a gender equality scheme, and to carry out race impact assessments for projects where appropriate. It is for Opportunity Peterborough to decide how to meet these requirements. The Department has made no assessment of the costs of doing so.

WOMEN AND EQUALITY

Church of Scientology

Robert Neill: To ask the Minister for Women and Equality whether the Equality and Human Rights Commission recognises the Church of Scientology as a religion or faith. [264850]

Maria Eagle: The Equality and Human Rights Commission recognises all religions, faiths and beliefs in terms of its duties to protect people from discrimination on the grounds of religion and belief. It is up to the courts to decide whether Scientology is a religion or faith within the terms of the Equality Act 2006.

Departmental Training

Grant Shapps: To ask the Minister for Women and Equality which training courses were *(a)* available to and *(b)* taken up by (i) civil servants and (ii) Ministers in the Government Equalities Office in the last 12 months. [266278]

Maria Eagle: The Government Equalities Office are unable to supply the information requested as it can be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Rape: Victim Support Schemes

Mrs. May: To ask the Minister for Women and Equality pursuant to the answer of 10 March 2009, *Official Report*, column 156, on rape crisis centres, on what date her officials initiated discussions with Rape Crisis England and Wales and the Survivors Trust on rape crisis centre funding for the forthcoming financial year; which Ministers she has met to discuss funding for rape crisis centres since 1 January 2009; and how many such meetings have been held. [265023]

Maria Eagle: Government officials have been working on an ongoing basis with Rape Crisis (England and Wales) and The Survivors' Trust on sustainability and funding to the sexual violence voluntary sector. Meetings have been held at official and ministerial level. I would like to thank both Rape Crisis (England and Wales) and the Survivors' Trust for their constructive and ongoing dialogue and support in this regard.

I have regular discussions with ministerial colleagues on this matter through the Inter Ministerial Group on Sexual Violence and Domestic Violence.

Training: Equal Opportunities

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Minister for Women and Equality how many civil servants in the Government Equalities Office have attended an equality and diversity course in the last 12 months; and at what cost to the public purse. [263877]

Maria Eagle: The Government Equalities Office has delivered workshops for all staff on Discrimination Law and Understanding Diversity during the last 12 months at a cost of £705. A further six staff have attended free seminars on Understanding Diversity and Understanding Equality Law.

LEADER OF THE HOUSE

Legislation

Mr. Baron: To ask the Leader of the House with reference to the ministerial correction of 10 November 2008, *Official Report*, columns 3-4MC, on the Parliamentary session, how many hours the House spent considering *(a)* primary and *(b)* delegated legislation on the floor of the House in the 2007-08 Session. [268046]

Chris Bryant: The information requested is published in the Sessional Returns for Session 2007-08 (HC 1 of Session 2008-09), pages 34-36 and can be found online at:

http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200809/csession/1/001.pdf

NORTHERN IRELAND

Christmas

Mr. Rob Wilson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland whether it is his Department's policy to offer staff *(a)* additional leave entitlement for Christmas shopping and *(b)* Christmas bonus payments. [262803]

Paul Goggins: The Northern Ireland Office does not make Christmas bonus payments to staff. Individual members of staff have been granted additional leave entitlement for Christmas shopping at the discretion of local line management.

Departmental Empty Property

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what estimate he has made of the change in the annual cost to his Department of maintaining the empty public buildings owned by his Department as a result of the April 2008 changes to empty property rate relief. [267127]

Paul Goggins: The Northern Ireland Office, excluding its agencies and executive NDPBs, will have no change in the annual cost of maintaining empty public buildings resulting from the April 2008 changes to empty property rate relief.

Departmental Energy

Greg Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what steps have been taken by *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agencies to improve the thermal efficiency of their buildings in the last 12 months. [266764]

Paul Goggins: Considerable work has been carried out in the last few years at Hillsborough Castle to make the building more energy efficient, including investment in renewable energy systems and more energy efficient plant, improving building services management systems, increasing insulation and increasing use of energy efficient light bulbs.

In addition in the last 12 months, all new modular and portable buildings in the Northern Ireland Prison Service agency's estate have been specified to meet the NI building regulations requirements in relation to the conservation of fuel and power. Thermal efficiencies include insulated walls and floors and double glazed windows. Thermal efficiency in existing buildings was improved prior to the period covered by this question.

Departmental Public Expenditure

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what *(a)* capital funds and *(b)* resource funds his Department has brought forward from its (i) 2009-10 and (ii) 2010-11 budgets for use in (A) 2008-09 and (B) 2009-10; and what schemes this funding is being used to support. [267397]

Paul Goggins: The Northern Ireland Office, excluding its agencies and executive NDPBs, has made no plans to bring forward capital or resource funds from (a) 2009-10 or (b) 2010-11 budgets for use in 2008-09 and 2009-10 respectively.

Departmental Standards

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what estimate he has made of the cost to his Department of measuring compliance with its targets under its public service agreements in the last 12 months for which figures are available. [266707]

Paul Goggins: The cost of measuring compliance with targets under the Northern Ireland Office's public service agreements is not held centrally within my Department. The cost of generating these data or breaking down existing data in this way would incur disproportionate costs.

DUCHY OF LANCASTER

Death Certificates

Anne Milton: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how many death certificates included the words pressure sores in each of the last five years. [268015]

Kevin Brennan: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated March 2009:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your recent question asking how many death certificates included the words pressure sores in each of the last five years. (268015)

The table attached provides the number of deaths where pressure ulcer was mentioned on the death certificate, in England and Wales, for 2003 to 2007 (the latest year available).

Table 1: Number of deaths with any mention of pressure ulcer on the death certificate[1], England and Wales[2], 2003-07[3]

	Persons
	Deaths
2003	1,036
2004	938
2005	1,046
2006	995
2007	1,045

[1] Cause of death was defined using the International Classification of Diseases, Tenth Revision (ICD-10) code L89 (Decubitus ulcer, bedsore, plaster ulcer or pressure ulcer) where it appeared anywhere on the death certificate.
[2] Figures for England and Wales include deaths of non-residents.
[3] Figures are for deaths registered in each calendar year.

Death: Prostate Cancer

Christopher Fraser: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what the *(a)* unstandardised and *(b)* standardised mortality rate from prostate cancer in each (i) Government office region and (ii) Parliamentary constituency was in each year since 1997. [267745]

Kevin Brennan: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated March 2009:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your recent question asking what the *(a)* unstandardised and *(b)* standardised mortality rate from prostate cancer was in each year from 1997 to 2007 by (i) Government Office Region and (ii) Parliamentary constituency. (267745)

The tables attached provide the *(a)* unstandardised and *(b)* age-standardised mortality rate per 100,000 population, where prostate cancer was the underlying cause of death, for (i) government office regions and Wales, from 1997 to 2007 (the latest year available) (Tables 1 and 2 respectively); and (ii) parliamentary constituencies in England and Wales, for the years 2001 to 2007 (the only period available) (Tables 3 and 4 respectively). A copy of Tables 3 and 4 has been placed in the Library of the House.

Table 1: Unstandardised mortality rates per 100,000 population[1] where prostate cancer was the underlying cause of death[2], Government office regions and Wales, 1997 to 2007[3, 4]

Death rate per 100,000 males

Region	*1997*	*1998*	*1999*	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*
North East	30	31	30	29	31	33	33	37	32	37	36
North West	31	32	32	32	34	33	32	32	33	30	34
Yorkshire and the Humber	34	31	33	32	31	32	36	35	32	34	33
East Midlands	35	34	33	33	33	35	37	36	35	35	37
West Midlands	33	34	33	32	37	35	36	36	34	36	36
East of England	34	34	35	34	38	40	37	38	37	38	37
London	26	26	26	23	26	26	24	26	26	23	23
South East	37	38	38	35	37	39	39	36	36	37	37
South West	44	44	42	42	42	42	44	44	45	43	42
England	34	34	34	32	34	35	35	35	34	34	34
Wales	38	35	34	35	44	38	41	44	36	38	38

[1] Unstandardised mortality rates per 100,000 population. Unstandardised rates do not allow comparison between populations which may contain different proportions of people of different ages.

[2] Cause of death for prostate cancer was defined using the International Classification of Diseases, Ninth Revision (ICD-9) code 185 for the years 1997-2000 and Tenth Revision (ICD-10) code C61 from 2001. The introduction of ICD-10 in 2001 means that the numbers of deaths from this cause before 2001 are not completely comparable with later years.

[3] Based on boundaries as of 2009.

[4] Figures are for deaths registered in each calendar year.

Table 2: Age-standardised mortality rates per 100,000 population[1] where prostate cancer was the underlying cause of death[2], Government office regions and Wales, 1997 to 2007[3, 4]

Death rate per 100,000 males

Region	*1997*	*1998*	*1999*	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*
North East	26	27	26	23	25	26	25	28	23	27	25
North West	27	27	27	27	28	27	26	25	26	23	25
Yorkshire and the Humber	28	26	26	26	25	25	28	27	24	25	24
East Midlands	29	28	27	26	26	27	28	27	26	25	26
West Midlands	28	28	28	26	29	28	28	27	25	27	25
East of England	27	27	26	26	28	29	27	27	26	26	24
London	25	26	26	23	26	26	25	26	26	23	22
South East	29	30	29	26	27	29	28	26	25	25	25
South West	30	29	27	27	27	27	28	27	28	25	25
England	28	28	27	26	27	27	27	26	26	25	25
Wales	29	27	26	26	32	26	29	30	24	25	25

[1] Age-standardised mortality rates per 100,000 population, standardised to the European Standard Population. Age-standardised rates are used to allow comparison between populations which may contain different proportions of people of different ages.

[2] Cause of death for prostate cancer was defined using the International Classification of Diseases, Ninth Revision (ICD-9) code 185 for the years 1997-2000 and Tenth Revision (ICD-10) code C61 from 2001. The introduction of ICD-10 in 2001 means that the numbers of deaths from this cause before 2001 are not completely comparable with later years.

[3] Based on boundaries as of 2009.

[4] Figures are for deaths registered in each calendar year.

Departmental Empty Property

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what estimate he has made of the change in the annual cost to his Department of maintaining the empty public buildings owned by his Department as a result of the April 2008 changes to empty property rate relief. [267136]

Kevin Brennan: The additional cost to the Cabinet Office in 2008-09 introduced by the changes to empty property rate relief in 2008-09 was £44,219.

Departmental Publications

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what estimate he has made of the *(a)* production and printing and *(b)* other costs to his Department of producing its most recent (i) departmental annual report and (ii) autumn performance report. [266700]

Kevin Brennan: The publication and printing costs of the Cabinet Office's most recent Annual Report and Accounts for 2007-08 was £47,022 (excluding VAT) and for the 2008 Autumn Performance Report, £8,047.

Other costs to the Department of producing the reports would be available only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Standards

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what estimate he has made of the cost to his Department of measuring compliance with its targets under its public service agreements in the last 12 months for which figures are available. [266562]

Kevin Brennan: Cabinet Office leads on one public service agreement (PSA) announced in the Comprehensive Spending Review 2007. This is PSA16, 'Increase the Proportion of Socially Excluded Adults in Settled Accommodation and Employment, Education or Training'.

Progress is measured by eight indicators using existing data sets. PSA 16 required three additional indicators to be added to the Mental Health Minimum Data Set. The cost of these changes was met by the Department of Health. In addition two new indicators for the learning disabled group were added to the Key Statistics 1 data set at no cost to central Government Departments. All other PSA 16 indicators were part of existing data collections.

Non-profit Making Associations

Mr. Evans: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what recent assessment he has made of the effect of the recession on not-for-profit organisations in *(a)* Ribble Valley constituency and *(b)* England. [267299]

Kevin Brennan: The Office of the Third Sector (OTS) is working with key partners to understand the impact of the economic downturn on third sector organisations. At present the available evidence is incomplete and somewhat inconsistent, indicating it is too soon since the start of the downturn to fully evaluate the impact on the sector at a national or constituency level.

The Government continue to take the difficulties many third sector organisations face during this recession very seriously, which is why the £42.5 million package announced in "Real help for Communities: Volunteers, Charities and Social Enterprises" provides targeted help for the sector to face these challenges. This package of support was designed together with third sector leaders and took into account submissions from over 80 charities. This action plan builds on the wide range of measures the Government have put in place to support people through the economic downturn, and on the Government's long-term commitment to voluntary organisations and social enterprises.

The OTS will continue to monitor this situation closely and work with its partners to share evidence on this issue and will host a sector-wide summit on the economic downturn on the 2 June. In addition, the Third Sector Research Centre will also be factoring the impact of the downturn into its analysis of the sector.

Mr. Evans: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how many not-for-profit organisations have closed in *(a)* Ribble Valley constituency and *(b)* England since the start of the recession. [267303]

Kevin Brennan: The Cabinet Office does not systematically collect data on the number of not-for-profit organisations that have closed since the start of the recession either in the Ribble Valley constituency or across England.

Personal Income: Essex

Bob Spink: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what the average annual income per household was in *(a)* Castle Point and *(b)* Essex in each of the last five years; and if he will make a statement. [267054]

Kevin Brennan: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated March 2009:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your recent question asking what the average annual income per household was in (a) Castle Point and (b) Essex in each of the last five years. (267054)

Table 1 shows the average net weekly equivalised household income for the East of England, both before and after housing costs, at 2004/05 prices, since 2000/01-2002/03. These figures are based on the Department for Work and Pensions' Households Below Average Income (HBAI) series which is produced using the Family Resources Survey. It is not possible to present results from the HBAI series below the level of Government Office Regions. While HBAI more commonly presents median incomes, mean incomes are also shown here in order to be more comparable with the mean incomes shown for Castle Point Constituency and Essex.

Table 2 shows average net weekly equivalised household incomes for Castle Point and Essex, before and after housing costs, for the year 2004/05 (in 2004/05 prices). These are based on experimental small area statistics published by the ONS. Figures for other years are unavailable.

It should be borne in mind that the Government Office Region statistics and the small area statistics are based on different methodologies. It is not possible to separate out methodological differences from real differences. Small differences or changes over time should be treated with caution as these will be affected by sampling error.

Table 1: Average net weekly equivalised household income in the East of England, at 2004-05 prices[1,2,3]

£ per week

	Before housing costs[5]		*After housing costs[5]*	
2000-01 to 2006-07[4]	*Median income*	*Mean income*	*Median income*	*Mean income*
2000-01 to 2002-03	371	449	312	379
2001-02 to 2003-04	373	449	317	381
2002-03 to 2004-05	372	449	317	385
2003-04 to 2005-06	371	453	317	392
2004-05 to 2006-07	377	456	324	395

[1] Incomes are presented net of income tax payments, national insurance contributions and council tax.

[2] East of England as defined by Government office region.

[3] All figures have been rounded to the nearest pound.

[4] Three-year averages have been presented, as single year estimates would be subject to volatility.

[5] Housing costs include rent (gross of housing benefit), water charges, mortgage interest payments, structural insurance, ground rent and service charges.

Source:

'Households Below Average Income', Department for Work and Pensions

Table 2: Average weekly household income for Castle Point constituency and Essex[1] [2], 2004-05

		£ per week
	Net weekly equivalised household income (before housing costs)[2]	*Net weekly equivalised household income (after housing costs)[2]*
Castle Point constituency	420	390
Essex	460	410

[1] Net income is gross income minus income tax payments, national insurance contributions, contributions to occupational pension schemes, all maintenance and child support payments.
[2] Housing costs include rent (gross of housing benefit), water charges, mortgage interest payments, structural insurance, ground rent and service charges.
Source:
Office for National Statistics and Department for Work and Pensions

INNOVATION, UNIVERSITIES AND SKILLS

Further Education: Capital Investment

Rob Marris: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills pursuant to the written ministerial statement of 4 March 2009, *Official Report*, column 55WS, on capital investment (further education colleges), which colleges have been granted approval in principle; which colleges have pending bids to the national Learning and Skills Council for approval in principle; and which colleges have been given funding by the Learning and Skills Council to carry out feasibility studies into proposed capital building projects. [263870]

Mr. Simon: Capital funding for Further Education colleges is administrated by the Learning and Skills Council (LSC). As the information requested pertains to decisions and records held by the Council, I have asked Geoff Russell, the LSC Acting Chief Executive, to write to my hon. Friend with the further information requested. A copy of his letter will be placed in the House Libraries.

Stephen Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for South Holland and the Deepings of 16 March 2009, *Official Report*, column 904W, on further education: finance, when he plans to place in the Library the copy of the letter. [267913]

Mr. Simon: I understand that Mark Haysom, the then chief executive of the Learning and Skills Council, wrote to the hon. Member for South Holland and The Deepings (Mr. Hayes) on 23 March. A copy of that letter should be available in the House Libraries shortly.

Stephen Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills which Parliamentary constituencies have further education colleges with capital funding bids awaiting final approval by the Learning and Skills Council; and how many such bids there are for colleges within each of those constituencies. [267914]

Mr. Simon: Capital funding for Further Education colleges is administrated by the Learning and Skills Council (LSC). As the information requested pertains to records held by the Council, I have asked Geoffrey Russell, the acting LSC chief executive, to write to the hon. Member with the further information requested. A copy of his letter will be placed in the House Libraries.

Stephen Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills pursuant to the written ministerial statement of 4 March 2009, *Official Report*, columns 55-6WS, on capital investment (further education colleges), what steps the Learning and Skills Council has taken to keep interested hon. Members informed on the progress and status of schemes in their area. [267915]

Mr. Simon: Capital funding for Further Education colleges is administrated by the Learning and Skills Council (LSC). As the information requested pertains to communications activity undertaken by the Council, I have asked Geoffrey Russell, the acting LSC chief executive, to write to the hon. Member with the further information requested. A copy of his letter will be placed in the House Libraries.

Further Education: Governing Bodies

Rob Marris: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how many times the Learning and Skills Council has used its powers under section 11 of the Learning and Skills Act 2000 since 1 January 2001; and if he will make a statement. [263275]

Mr. Simon: The power set out at Section 11 of the Learning and Skills Act 2000, enables the Learning and Skills Council (LSC) to appoint up to two persons to the governing body of a further education (FE) college. This power is a general power which enables the LSC to appoint additional governors to a college corporation to provide additional skills, knowledge or expertise as appropriate.

The power may also be used as part of an intervention response. However, the power is independent of the LSC's powers of intervention and evidence of failure is not a pre-condition for the power to be used.

The LSC has confirmed that, since its creation on 1 April 2001, it has used the power on 33 occasions, appointing a total of 51 governors.

CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

British Library

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what his policy is on the digitisation of manuscripts held by the British Library; how many manuscripts held by the British Library have been digitised in the last five years; and if he will make a statement. [266971]

Barbara Follett: The digitisation of its manuscripts is a matter for the British Library. The British Library advises that it has digitised 11,000 manuscripts in the last five years. The figure is made up of material digitised primarily from the mediaeval and earlier manuscripts projects and the international Dunhuang project.

Departmental Buildings

Dr. Pugh: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what buildings are owned or operated by his Department under a private finance initiative (PFI) arrangement; and which companies are involved with each such PFI arrangement. [267415]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The Department does not have any buildings that are owned or operated under a private finance initiative.

Departmental Cost-effectiveness

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport pursuant to his Department's most recent simplification plan, what reductions were made to its total administrative burden in each year since 2005-06. [261621]

Mr. Sutcliffe: Administrative burdens reductions in each year since 2005-06 were as follows:

	£ million
2005-06	97.2
2006-07	0
2007-08	58.9
2008-09 (to date)	0

The baseline figure for administrative burdens as a result of DCMS regulation at the start of 2005-06 was 343.3 million.

Departmental Empty Property

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what estimate he has made of the change in the annual cost to his Department of maintaining the empty public buildings owned by his Department as a result of the April 2008 changes to empty property rate relief. [267141]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The buildings occupied by the Department are leased not owned.

Departmental Internet

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what expenditure his Department has incurred on its Second Life website in the last 12 months. [267022]

Mr. Sutcliffe: My Department does not have a Second Life website.

Departmental Public Expenditure

Mr. Rob Wilson: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport which campaigns his Department has officially supported in the last 12 months. [261006]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The Department regularly listens to views from a wide range of stakeholders, including the public. A list of campaigns that have been formally or informally supported by the Department is not held in the manner requested.

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what capital funding his Department has brought forward from its *(a)* 2009-10 and *(b)* 2010-11 budgets for use in (i) 2008-09 and (ii) 2009-10; and to what ends this funding has been allocated. [266208]

Mr. Sutcliffe: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given by my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State to the hon. Member for Yeovil (Mr. Laws) on 27 January 2009, *Official Report*, column 356W.

Departmental Publications

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what estimate he has made of the *(a)* production and printing and *(b)* other costs to his Department of producing its most recent (i) departmental annual report and (ii) autumn performance report. [266696]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The costs of the departmental annual report and autumn performance report for 2008 were as follows:

(i) Departmental annual report—£26,600 for production and £6,736 for printing

(ii) Autumn performance report—£1,694 for production and £661 for printing

Departmental Recycling

Mr. Rob Wilson: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much and what proportion of its waste his Department recycled in *(a)* 2007 and *(b)* 2008. [266775]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The following proportion of waste was recycled by the Department:

2007: 54 per cent.

2008: 69 per cent.

Departmental Scientists

Ian Stewart: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what his Department's budget for scientific advice and research is in 2008-09; for what purposes the equivalent budget for 2007-08 was used; and how many people employed in his Department have a science or engineering degree. [260771]

Barbara Follett: The DCMS budget for scientific advice and research in 2008-09 is £1,000,000. The equivalent budget in 2007-08 was used to fund a variety of projects ranging from demand for culture, attitudes to the Olympic legacy to climate change impacts on our sectors and purchasing tourism statistics.

We do not keep staff records based on degree content or classification so cannot say how many staff have a science or engineering degree.

Departmental Standards

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what estimate he has made of the cost to his Department of measuring compliance with its targets under its public service agreements in the last 12 months for which figures are available. [266569]

Mr. Sutcliffe: In the last 12 months, DCMS has not incurred any costs in measuring compliance with its targets.

Data are drawn from a number of sources, none of which are collected solely for the purpose of measuring compliance. In a number of cases, the data sources are funded by other Departments or organisations.

Furthermore, the information used to measure the Department's PSA targets would be compiled regardless of PSA reporting requirements, as they relate to key areas of departmental performance which we monitor on an ongoing basis.

Summary information for each PSA is provided in the table.

Spending period	*PSA*	*Lead Department*	*Any costs incurred by DCMS to measure compliance?*
SR2002	PSA3—improve productivity of tourism, creative and leisure industries	DCMS	No. Data drawn from existing sources (Annual Business Inquiry, ONS).
SR2004	PSA1—increase the percentage of school children who spend a minimum of two hours each week on high quality PE and school sport	DCSF/DCMS	No. Costs met by DCSF.
	PSA2—halt the year on year increase in obesity among children	DH/DCSF	No.
	PSA3—increase take-up of culture and sporting opportunities by priority groups	DCMS	No. Measured using Taking Part survey which exists to inform Department's evidence base and drive delivery.
	PSA4—improve productivity of tourism, creative and leisure industries	DCMS	No. Data drawn from existing sources (Annual Business Inquiry, ONS).
CSR07	PSA22—Olympic and Paralympic Games with a sustainable legacy	DCMS	No. Data drawn from other sources (primarily ODA) and compiled for performance management purposes. Child participation data collected and funded by DCSF.
	PSAA21—Indicator 6—increase percentage of adults who participate in culture or sport	DCMS	No. Measured using Taking Part survey which exists to inform Department's evidence base and drive delivery.

Digital Broadcasting

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much his Department has spent on advertising and communications relating to the digital switchover to date. [267036]

Andy Burnham: The public information campaign for digital TV switchover is being handled by Digital UK, an independent, not-for-profit organisation, established by the broadcasting industry to lead the switchover programme. I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave to the hon. Member for Orkney and Shetland (Mr. Carmichael) on 18 February 2008, *Official Report*, column 324W, which are the most recently available figures.

eBay: Antiquities

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what assessment he has made of the effectiveness of the British Museum's monitoring of potential treasure finds on eBay; and if he will make a statement. [267307]

Barbara Follett: No formal assessment has been made of the British Museum's monitoring of potential treasure finds on eBay. However, I welcome the fact that, since the Museums, Libraries and Archives Council and the British Museum concluded an agreement with eBay in October 2006 to monitor the site for cases of unreported treasure, the number of instances of potential treasure identified for sale on the site by the British Museum has decreased.

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what recent discussions the Government has had with representatives of eBay to prevent antiquities being sold unlawfully through eBay; and if he will make a statement. [267308]

Barbara Follett: The Government have not held any recent discussions with eBay on this issue. In October 2006 the Museums, Libraries and Archives Council (MLA) and the British Museum (BM) concluded an agreement with eBay for the BM to monitor the site for cases of unreported treasure. The British Museum has continued to do so since that date.

Gambling Commission

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what recent consideration the Government has given to a change in the regulatory powers of the Gambling Commission. [267075]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The Government have not given any recent consideration to any specific change in the regulatory powers of the Gambling Commission. However, the regulatory framework is kept under regular review to ensure that the Commission has the necessary powers to regulate gambling in Great Britain effectively.

Goldman Sachs

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport pursuant to the answer of 17 March 2009, *Official Report*, column 974W, on departmental bank services, what the monetary value is of the contract between his Department and Goldman Sachs. [268305]

Mr. Sutcliffe: In relation to this contract between the Department and Goldman Sachs the monetary value was £43,573.

Horserace Totalisator Board

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what the gross gaming yield was for the Tote in each of the last three years for which figures are available. [267093]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The Tote have advised that gambling machine yearly revenue totals from its UK licensed betting offices (LBOs) were:

	Amount in £ millions
2006-07	45.2
2005-06	38.9
2004-05	29.1

The totals show all revenue from gambling machines in LBOs. This revenue is not limited to that derived from category B2 gambling machine play, but includes other types of gambling machines/play previously and currently utilised in LBOs.

The totals are also shown before payment of value added tax (gross profits tax before December 2005), amusement machine license duty and operating costs.

Regional Ministers: Travel

Andrew Mackinlay: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport whether the Permanent Secretary of his Department has authorised expenditure on travel costs for the parliamentary assistant to the Minister for the East of England in accordance with the circumstances envisaged in the Cabinet Secretary's letter to Permanent Secretaries of 2 December 2008. [267155]

Mr. Sutcliffe: No claims have been made.

Royal National Lifeboat Institution: Radio

Rosie Cooper: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what representations his Department has received on the effect of radio licensing fees on the Royal National Lifeboat Institution. [261972]

Mr. McFadden: I have been asked to reply.

This Department receives representations on many issues, a small number of these expressed concern about the level of radio licensing fees that the RNLI pays.

I understand that the RNLI pays fees for the radio channels it uses in its own right on the same basis as other maritime users such as ports and marinas but, as a charity, the RNLI receives a 50 per cent. discount. Under proposals of the Office of Communications (Ofcom), the RNLI and other charities will continue to benefit from the 50 per cent. discount. It will also be possible under the proposals for large, geographically spread users to save costs by getting a 'volume discount', and taking out UK-wide licences. Since the initial consultation opened, Ofcom clarified that the proposals they were consulting on would actually see the level of fees that the RNLI pays, halved.

No fees are payable by RNLI, or other charities, for channels specifically intended for search and rescue. The licences for these channels are held by the Maritime and Coastguard Agency (MCA).

Ofcom expect to consult again on this subject before any changes are implemented.

St. George's Day

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport pursuant to the answer given on 22 January 2009, *Official Report*, columns 1584-5W, on St. George's Day (1) what recent representations he has received on the promotion of St. George's Day; and which *(a)* groups and *(b)* individuals submitted such representations; [267016]

(2) how many items of correspondence his Department has received regarding St. George's Day since 13 January 2009. [267017]

Barbara Follett: As at 24 March the Department had received four items of correspondence with St. George's Day as its main subject since 13 January.

All four letters were from Members of Parliament. The Department holds no records of further representations on this subject during this time period.

As I stated in my response of 22 January to the hon. Member, it is possible that further correspondence could mention St. George's Day as a secondary issue, but this correspondence could be identified only at disproportionate cost.

Television: Concessions

Mr. Crausby: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many pensioners over the age of 75 resident in Bolton received a free television licence in 2008. [261790]

Andy Burnham: This is a matter for the BBC and my Department does not hold this information. We normally estimate this on a constituency basis, but this would not be appropriate to answer this question. I have, therefore, asked the BBC's head of revenue management to consider the question raised by the hon. Member and to write to him direct.

Copies of the reply will be placed in the Libraries of both Houses.

Tourism: Coastal Areas

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport (1) what steps he is taking to promote family-friendly holidays at traditional seaside resorts; [265491]

(2) how much VisitBritain spent in promoting British seaside destinations in each of the last five years. [265493]

Barbara Follett: VisitBritain have advised that they do not hold figures for how much they have spent promoting British seaside destinations as any such funding would form part of a wider campaign.

Seaside locations did feature in two recent campaigns, "Enjoy England's Waterside" and "Family Fun". Family holidays and seaside locations will also form part of the value campaign which is due for launch in April 2009.

One specific step my Department is taking which will support the promotion of family-friendly holidays in seaside towns is the Sea Change programme. This programme places culture at the heart of regenerating England's seaside resorts by investing in arts, public space, cultural assets and heritage projects. The scheme, which will run for three years from 2008-11, giving £45 million in total, will encourage new visitors to coastal areas and help support and enrich existing communities.

The scheme is being delivered through a partnership involving Arts Council England, the BIG Lottery Fund, the Commission for Architecture and the Built Environment, English Heritage, the Heritage Lottery Fund, the museums, libraries and archives council and the regional development agencies.

JUSTICE

Children: Abuse

Mr. Waterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many prosecutions for child abuse there were in *(a)* Eastbourne and *(b)* East Sussex in each year for the last 10 years. [267212]

Maria Eagle: The number of persons aged 18 and over proceeded against at magistrates courts for offences relating to child abuse from 1998 to 2007 (latest available) in the Sussex police force area can be viewed in the following table. Information held centrally cannot be broken down sufficiently to supply data for Eastbourne or East Sussex, thus Sussex police force area data have been provided in lieu. Court proceedings data for 2008 will be available in the autumn of 2009.

As there is no specific offence of "child abuse", statistics are only provided where the victim can be identified as a child from the description of the offence. Furthermore the term "child abuse" describes harm caused to a child arising from emotional, physical, sexual abuse or neglect caused by a parent or carer. A number of other offences such as offences against the person including assault may frequently be used by the police to charge offenders.

These data are on the principal offence basis. The figures given in the table on court proceedings relate to persons for whom these offences were the principal offence for which they were dealt with. When a defendant has been found guilty of two or more offences, the offence selected is the one for which the heaviest penalty is imposed. Where the same disposal is imposed for two or more offences, the offence selected is the offence for which the statutory maximum penalty is the most severe.

Number of defendants aged 18 and over proceeded against at all courts for offences relating to child abuse in Sussex police force area 1998 to 2007[1,2]

		Proceeded against									
Statute	*Offence description*	*1998*	*1999*	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*
Domestic Violence, Crime and Victims Act 2004 S.5[3]	Causing or allowing the death of a child or vulnerable person	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	—	—	—
Children and Young Persons Act 1933 Sec. 1	Cruelty to or neglect of children	14	15	15	12	11	10	7	14	3	13
Offences against the Person Act 1861 Sec. 27	Abandoning children under two years	—	—	—	1	—	3	—	—	—	—
Sexual Offences Act 2003 S. 5[4]	Rape of a female child under 13 by a male	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	—	3	1	—
Sexual Offences Act 2003 S.5[4]	Rape of a male child under 13 by a male	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	—	1	—	1
Sexual Offences Act 2003 S.7[4]	Sexual assault on a female child under 13	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	1	5	9	7
Sexual Offences Act 2003—S.8(1)(2)(3), S.9(1)(a)(b)(c)(ii),(2),(3), S.10(1)(a)(b)(c)(i)(ii),(2),(3)[4]	Sexual activity involving a child	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	1	7	7	7
Sexual Offences Act 2003—S.16(1)(e)(i)(ii),(2)-(5), S.17(1)(e)(i)(ii),(2)-(5), S.18(1)(f)(ii),(2)-(5)[4]	Abuse of a position of trust: Sexual activity with children	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	—	2	—	—
Sexual Offences Act 2003 S.1[5]	Rape of a female aged under 16	9	6	1	15	19	8	7	14	14	11

Number of defendants aged 18 and over proceeded against at all courts for offences relating to child abuse in Sussex police force area 1998 to 2007[1, 2]

		Proceeded against[5]									
Statute	*Offence description*	*1998*	*1999*	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*
Sexual Offences Act 2003 S.1[4]	Rape of a male aged under 16	1	3	1	—	1	5	2	3	1	

n/a = Not applicable

[1] These data are on the principal offence basis.

[2] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts, and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

[3] Domestic Violence, Crime and Victims Act 2004 S.5 came into force on 21 March 2005.

[4] The Sexual Offences Act 2003 came into force on 1 May 2004.

[5] Prior to 2004 the offences "Rape of a female aged under 16" and "Rape of a male aged under 16" came under the Sexual Offences Act 1956 Section 1 as amended by the Criminal Justice and Public Order Act 1994 section 142.

Source:

OCJR—E & A: Office for Criminal Justice Reform—Evidence & Analysis Unit

Defamation

Dr. Evan Harris: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what plans he has to abolish the offence of criminal libel; and if he will make a statement. [267172]

Mr. Straw: Government accept that there is a case for early abolition of the rarely-used offence of defamatory libel. At present, this is an issue on which we are preparing to consult as part of a consultation paper which will focus primarily on certain issues relating to defamation and the internet. However, there will be an opportunity to debate this issue and whether immediate repeal could be justified during the passage of the Coroners and Justice Bill.

Dr. Evan Harris: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what plans he has to abolish the offences of *(a)* sedition and *(b)* seditious libel. [267173]

Mr. Straw: The Government accept that there is a case for abolition of these rarely-used offences. We are considering whether this can sensibly be disentangled from the reform of the law on treason, a project in the Law Commission's 10th programme. There will be an opportunity to debate this issue during the passage of the Coroners and Justice Bill.

Departmental Energy

Greg Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how much *(a)* electricity, *(b)* gas and *(c)* other fuel has been used by (i) his Department and (ii) each of its agencies since its inception. [267339]

Mr. Malik: The Ministry of Justice was created in May 2007, the table shows the consumption of electricity, gas and other fuel for the year April 2007 to March 2008.

	Energy type	*Annual consumption (KWh)*
MOJ HQ core estate	Electricity	20,179,413
	Natural gas	7,417,634
	Other fuel	
Her Majesty's Courts Service	Electricity	143,502,717
	Natural gas	142,798,412
	Other fuel	974,467
Tribunals Service	Electricity	7,487,197
	Natural gas	741,894
	Other fuel	
National Offender Management Service (custodial property)	Electricity	316,055,628
	Natural gas	810,129,566
	Other fuel	166,570,000
The National Archives	Electricity	12,477,836
	Natural gas	7,773,972
	Other fuel	—
Her Majesty's Land Registry	Electricity	20,687,222
	Natural gas	21,252,152
	Other fuel	2,533,535

Departmental Freedom of Information

Mr. Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) how many requests for Central Clearing House advice on freedom of information requests have been received in each quarter since January 2005; what information his Department holds on such requests; what procedures are in place to request central clearance; whether any changes have been made to such procedures since the Freedom of Information Act 2000 came into force; and who within his Department is responsible for providing Central Clearing House advice; [267797]

(2) how many responses to requests to his Department for information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 have been delayed because of consideration of the public interest test in each year since the Act's entry into force; and how many such requests have subsequently been refused on the basis of a ministerial certification under section 36 of the Act; [267801]

(3) how many meetings have taken place between the Information Commissioner's Office and his Department since 1 January 2008; and what records his Department holds of the matters discussed at each meeting; [267802]

(4) how many requests for decision notices under section 50 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 the Information Commissioner's Office has received in each year since the entry into force of the Act; how

many have been determined; how many have been *(a)* withdrawn and *(b)* not progressed to a formal decision notice; and how many remain outstanding; [267803]

(5) how many requests to the Information Commissioner's Office for decision notices under section 50 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 have been made in respect of *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its predecessor; how many have resulted in the issue of decision notices; and how many requests remain outstanding; [267804]

(6) how many staff at each grade in his Department work in its Information Directorate; how many such staff work in its Data Access and Compliance Unit; what changes in the personnel of *(a)* that unit and *(b)* any other unit undertaking such work there have been since January 2007; and what the reason for each change was; [267805]

(7) what information his Department holds on the intervention by the Information Commissioner in March 2008 in respect of handling of freedom of information requests by his Department; and what steps have been taken as a consequence; [267806]

(8) whether any officials from Government departments have been seconded to the Information Commissioner's Office to assist with casework. [267952]

Mr. Wills: I will write to the hon. Member when I am in a position to do so and place a copy of my letter in the Library of the House.

Departmental Public Expenditure

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice which *(a)* agencies and *(b)* programmes in his Department are to have a real terms reduction in their budget for 2008-09. [242163]

Maria Eagle: As part of the Ministry of Justice's (MoJ) Performance and Efficiency programme, committed to delivering £1 billion of saving by March 2011, real terms reductions have been made to the budgets of three of our agencies in 2008-09 as set out in Table 1 as follows. Table 2 demonstrates the estimated change in resource departmental expenditure limits for the National Offender Management Service. Regrettably it is not possible to provide a breakdown of spending levels for all initiatives that might be classified as programmes, as this would result in a disproportionate cost burden.

The 2008-09 budgets quoted in Table 1 and Table 2 represent the resource DEL position as per the spring supplementary estimates, published on 12 February 2009. The 2007-08 budgets are end of year figures.

Table 1: Change in agency resource departmental expenditure limits (RDEL)

MoJ Agencies	*Final 2007-08 budget (RDEL) (£000)*	*Final 2008-09 budget (RDEL) (£000)*	*HMT GDP deflator (December 2008) (£000)*	*Deflated 2008-09 budget (£000)*	*Real terms increase (Percentage)*
HMCS	1,076,595	1,235,289	1.0325	1,196,406	11.1
Tribunals Service	302,929	298,654	1.0325	289,253	-4.5
Office of the Public Guardian	1,127	1,100	1.0325	1,065	-5.5

Table 2: Estimated change in resource departmental expenditure limits (RDEL) for NOMS group (excluding non departmental public bodies—Youth Justice Board and Parole Board)

MoJ Agencies	*Final 2007-08 budget (RDEL) (£000)*	*Final 2008-09 budget (RDEL) (£000)*	*HMT GDP deflator (December 2008) (£000)*	*Deflated 2008-09 budget (£000)*	*Real terms increase (Percentage)*
HM Prison Service	2,057,504	2,178,707	1.0325	2,110,128	2.6
NOMS centre (including private prisons)	1,380,871	1,414,551	1.0325	1,370,025	-0.8
Probation Service	860,281	891,719	1.0325	863,650	0.4
Total NOMS Group	4,298,656	4,484,977	1.0325	4,343,803	1.1

Note:
Although the NOMS group existed as part of MoJ in 2007-08, it was created as an agency in 2008-09 following re-organisation within the MoJ. Therefore, the figures for NOMS centre, (which includes expenditure met centrally on local services as well as HQ) for 2008-09, are not comparable with the figure for 2007-08 due to these machinery of Government changes.

Departmental Surveys

Mr. Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) how many staff of his Department's Democracy, Constitution and Law directorate responded to the questions in its recent staff survey on *(a)* the chance of getting their views heard, *(b)* putting their priorities on the agenda, *(c)* identifying things most important to them and *(d)* identifying thoughts on how the directorate could be a great place to work; [267795]

(2) how many staff in his Department's Democracy, Constitution and Law directorate have legal qualifications; and how many are qualified *(a)* solicitors and *(b)* barristers in England and Wales; [267796]

(3) how many staff of his Department's Democracy, Constitution and Law Directorate there are at each *(a)* Senior Civil Service and *(b)* other Civil Service pay band; [267798]

(4) how many personnel work in the Democracy, Constitution and Law Directorate of his Department; how many have *(a)* joined and *(b)* left the Directorate since its creation; and how many are expected to leave in the next 12 months; [267799]

(5) what the pay band was of each member of his Department's Democracy, Constitution and Law Directorate who attended its awayday on 29 September 2008; which senior managers in the Directorate attended; where the awayday took place; what the cost to his Department of the awayday was; and what priorities for the Directorate have been set *(a)* consequent upon and *(b)* subsequent to the event; [267800]

(6) how many celebratory lunches the Permanent Secretary has hosted for staff of his Department since its establishment; on which date each such event was held; where each such event was held; who attended each such event; what the cost was of *(a)* hosting and *(b)* staff attendance at each such event; and whether staff attendance at each such event was regarded as part of the normal duties of such staff; [267898]

(7) how performance against the critical success factor in paragraph 3.1 of his Department's current business model is monitored; and what steps are taken against his Department's staff in circumstances where the standards required under this factor are not met. [267949]

Mr. Wills: I will write to the hon. Member when I am in a position to do so and place a copy of my letter in the Library of the House.

Driving Offences: Motorcycles

Mr. Goodwill: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many motorcyclists were prosecuted for riding after their compulsory basic training had lapsed in each of the last 18-months for which figures are available. [267709]

Maria Eagle: The offence of riding motorcycles after compulsory basic training (CBT) has lapsed cannot be separately identified, on the court proceedings database held by the Ministry of Justice, from similar offences whereby a person drives on a road a motor vehicle of any class otherwise than in accordance with a licence (section 87 Road Traffic Act 1988).

National Offender Management Service: Consultants

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the average daily rate paid by his Department to consultants provided by ASE Consulting Ltd was in *(a)* 2006, *(b)* 2007 and *(c)* 2008; and what equivalent daily rate was paid for such consultants engaged by the National Offender Management Service in each year. [266417]

Mr. Straw: Disclosing the information requested would, or would be likely to, prejudice the commercial interests of both the contractor in question and the National Offender Management Service (NOMS) because the information requested would (a) give the contractor's competitors a significant indication of their contract pricing mechanisms that could compromise their commercial advantage and (b) give an indication of the NOMS's contractual position regarding its level of contractual pricing in respect of consultancy rates which could detrimentally influence future commercial endeavours. In addition, the information provided applies to sensitive commercial information provided to NOMS by the contractors, a breach of which would be actionable.

Offenders: Suicide

Mr. Garnier: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many offenders committed suicide whilst accommodated in approved premises in each of the last 10 years. [267263]

Mr. Hanson: The following table shows the number of confirmed suicides of approved premises residents for each calendar year since 2000.

Calendar year	*Number of confirmed suicides*
2000	0
2001	3
2002	3
2003	4
2004	2
2005	7
2006	1
2007	3
2008	3
2009 to date	0

Each death is tragic and regrettable, and the National Offender Management Service is committed to learning from cases of self-inflicted harm and death, to improve the care of offenders supervised in approved premises. Each approved premises is required to have a policy for the prevention of suicide and self-harm. In addition, each death in an approved premises is investigated by the Prisons and Probation ombudsman, and the ombudsman's reports and recommendations are carefully considered, to inform future policy development.

Performing Arts

John Mason: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice pursuant to the answer of 18 March 2009, *Official Report*, columns 1217-18W, on performing arts, what the cost was to his Department of engaging *(a)* actors for each of the listed initiatives and *(b)* musicians for the 18-24 Electoral campaign in 2005-06. [267469]

Mr. Malik: The Ministry of Justice spent the following on engaging *(a)* actors for each of the listed initiatives and *(b)* musicians for the 18-24 Electoral campaign.

	£
Victims and Witnesses DVD "Going to Court"	6,250.00
Domestic Violence DVD "You Don't Have to Live in Fear"	n/a
Community Sentencing CD-ROM "Judge for Yourself"	n/a
"Diversity and fairness in the jury system"	3,900.00
Musicians for the 18-24 Electoral campaign	0

n/a = Not available. Figures that are not available cannot be broken down from overall project costs and to do so would be disproportionate to cost.

Prisoners Release

Mr. Garnier: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice if he will set a timetable for the closure of the end-of-custody licence scheme. [267636]

Mr. Straw: As I stated in the House on 3 February I intend to withdraw the end of custody licence scheme (ECL) as soon as we have sufficient capacity within the prison system to do so.

Prisoners Release: Reoffenders

Mr. Grieve: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice whether his Department has paid any *(a)* compensation and *(b)* ex gratia payments to victims of crimes committed by offenders on (i) end of custody licence, (ii) home detention curfew and (iii) release on temporary licence. [252837]

Mr. Straw: The Criminal Injuries Compensation Authority (CICA) makes payments to innocent victims of violent crime where appropriate. In order to make a compensation payment, there needs to be evidence that an offence has occurred (through a police report) and in some instances evidence of the injury is required (medical report). CICA do not obtain information about the offender whose identity at the time of the claim in any event may not be known or where there has been no conviction.

Prison Service Order 7,500 authorises ex-gratia payments. There is no central record of such payments. The information requested could be found only at disproportionate cost.

Prisons: Drugs

Mr. Garnier: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice if he will require the inclusion of positive results for buprenorphine in prisons' mandatory drug testing reports; and if he will make a statement. [267216]

Mr. Hanson: Positive results for buprenorphine in prisons' mandatory drug testing will be included in reported data from 1 April 2009.

The recording of positive tests for buprenorphine began on 1 April 2008. For comparative purposes, data, including and excluding positive tests for buprenorphine will be published for the 2008-09 financial year.

Yorkshire and Humber Offender Management Service: Statistics

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how much time was spent by Yorkshire and Humber Offender Management Service recording ethnic monitoring statistics in *(a)* 2006, *(b)* 2007, *(c)* 2008 and *(d)* 2009. [264377]

Mr. Straw: NOMS has a legal duty to eliminate discrimination and promote equality.

By monitoring the outcomes of policy and practice by ethnic group, we are able to identify any adverse impact on particular groups and take steps to address it. Thereby ensuring that the services we deliver are fair and make best use of resources available.

The Probation Service is required to monitor the race and ethnicity of every offender under statutory supervision and also the race and ethnicity of every offender upon whom a report is prepared to assist the court with a sentencing decision. Although these data are collected it does not take into account the amount of time that was spent collating it. To collect this information would incur disproportionate cost.

The following table shows hours spent recording ethnic minority statistics in each establishment in Yorkshire and Humber Offender Management Service.

Hours

Prison	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*	*2009*[1]
Askham Grange	52	52	52	52
Everthorpe	144	120	120	120
Hull	72	72	72	72
Leeds	93.36	93.36	93.36	93.36
Lindholme	144	144	144	144
Moorland	660	660	660	660
Newhall	36	36	36	36
Northallerton	320	320	320	320
Wealstun	264	264	264	264
Wetherby	[2]—	[2]—	[2]—	[2]—

[1] Estimated

[2] Nil, as funded by YJB

Young Offender Institutions: Education

Paul Holmes: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many hours per day prisoners in young offenders' institutions spent on *(a)* education and *(b)* other forms of work on average in the latest period for which figures are available. [264707]

Mr. Hanson: The following table shows the average[1] daily hours per prisoner for the period April 2008 to the end of February 2009 (11 months), the latest available data[2], for each young offender and juvenile establishment.

We have improved the quality of offender learning, as assessed by Ofsted over the last five years.

There has been a three-fold increase in the offender learning budget since 2001, rising to over £175 million in 2008-09, and we are increasing by a third, the number of prisoners taking part in education and training since 2006 when our new delivery arrangements were put in place.

Employment is known to be a key factor in helping to reduce reoffending. The Government's aims therefore are to improve the quantity and quality of offender learning to provide more offenders with the skills and motivation to turn away from crime, improve their employability and become productive members of society.

[1] Purposeful activity is not routinely reported as a daily average. For this answer, the weekly hours have been divided by five to obtain a weekday average as the majority of activity will take place on weekdays.

[2] All data is provisional and subject to end year validation.

Weekday hours

Establishment	*Classroom education*	*Other education-related activity*	*Physical education*	*Work-related activity*	*Resettlement-related activity*	*Faith-based activity*	*Association*[1]	*Court activity*
Ashfield	3.18	0.22	1.36	0.15	1.09	0.11	4.39	0.15
Aylesbury	1.14	0.07	0.63	2.12	0.70	0.19	1.35	0.00
Brinsford	1.90	0.07	0.53	2.29	1.00	0.11	2.93	0.24

Weekday hours

Establishment	*Classroom education*	*Other education-related activity*	*Physical education*	*Work-related activity*	*Resettlement-related activity*	*Faith-based activity*	*Association*[1]	*Court activity*
Castington	1.93	0.02	0.57	1.65	0.69	0.12	2.59	0.13
Cookham Wood	3.36	0.02	1.51	0.13	1.38	0.03	2.73	0.00
Deerbolt	1.53	0.08	0.89	1.55	0.44	0.06	1.22	0.03
Feltham	1.77	0.07	0.63	1.54	1.29	0.22	2.14	0.70
Glen Parva	1.01	0.06	0.56	1.64	0.96	0.08	2.10	0.10
Hindley	2.47	0.03	0.91	1.19	0.80	0.08	2.82	0.08
Huntercombe	2.40	0.16	0.94	1.46	0.70	0.16	1.87	0.07
Lancaster Farms	1.82	0.17	0.46	1.35	1.00	0.08	3.18	0.24
Northallerton	2.01	0.06	0.61	1.52	0.55	0.08	1.82	0.00
Portland	1.22	0.08	0.40	1.80	0.68	0.12	3.87	0.01
Reading	0.97	0.20	0.76	2.11	0.83	0.11	2.69	0.00
Rochester	0.59	0.01	0.64	2.72	0.60	0.25	1.67	0.00
Stoke Heath	1.49	0.07	0.73	2.01	0.79	0.10	1.96	0.08
Swinfen Hall	1.66	0.03	0.61	2.16	0.66	0.10	2.50	0.01
Thorn Cross	2.33	0.06	1.31	3.02	1.43	0.19	6.97	0.00
Warren Hill	3.48	0.06	0.51	0.66	0.88	0.11	2.69	0.12
Werrington	4.00	0.19	0.84	0.67	0.46	0.18	1.08	0.03
Wetherby	2.34	0.00	0.90	1.18	1.[illegible]	0.06	2.56	0.13

[1] Association is a daily average over the full seven-day week. All other figures relate to a weekday average.

HOME DEPARTMENT

Advisory Council on the Misuse of Drugs

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether any members of the Advisory Council on the Misuse of Drugs have expertise in the links between drug use and psychosis. [265321]

Jacqui Smith: The Advisory Council on the Misuse of Drugs (ACMD) has five members that have specific expertise in the links between drug use and psychosis. Those members are Professor David Nutt (Chair of the ACMD, Professor of Psychopharmacology University of Bristol and Head of the Department of Neuropsychopharmacology and Molecular Imaging at Imperial College London), Professor Ilana Crome (Professor of Addiction Psychiatry, Keele University Medical School), Dr. John Marsden (Research Psychologist, Institute of Psychiatry), Ms Carmel Clancy (Principal Lecturer at Middlesex University) and Dr. Mary Rowlands (Consultant Psychiatrist). Further details of which are on the ACMD's web pages:

www.drugs.homeoffice.gov.uk/drugslaws/acmd/aboutus/committeesandmembers/listmembers/

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what criteria she uses to assess nominees to her Department's Advisory Council on the Misuse of Drugs. [265322]

Jacqui Smith: Appointments to the Advisory Council on the Misuse of Drugs (ACMD) are made through open competition in accordance with Office of the Commissioner for Public Appointments Code of Practice. Applications to join the ACMD are assessed by criteria that are tailored to the specific expertise that is being recruited to the ACMD at the time.

Asylum

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what her most recent estimate is of how long it will take to *(a)* clear the backlog of outstanding asylum cases and *(b)* deport all those unsuccessful in these cases. [242735]

Jacqui Smith *[holding answer 16 December 2008]*: We are committed to completing the backlog of asylum cases by the summer of 2011. This will of course include cases that are removed from the country. So far 23,500 removals have been effected as at 31 October 2008.

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what percentage of the estimated 450,000 older cases backlog in the Case Resolution Directorate are estimated to be refused asylum seekers. [255865]

Jacqui Smith: Of the 450,000 older cases 155,500 cases were concluded at the last update. The backlog contains a huge variety of cases, including errors and duplicates, and the time taken to conclude a case varies greatly, depending on its case type. To obtain the information requested would involve disproportionate cost.

Paul Holmes: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many *(a)* Afghani, *(b)* Belarusian, *(c)* Burmese, *(d)* Chinese, *(e)* Colombian, *(f)* Cuban, *(g)* Democratic Republic of Congo, *(h)* Democratic People's Republic of Korea, *(i)* Iranian, *(j)* Iraqi, *(k)* Israeli, *(l)* Nepalese, *(m)* Pakistani, *(n)* Russian, *(o)* Saudi Arabian, *(p)* Syrian, *(q)* Turkmenistani, *(r)* Uzbekistani, *(s)* Vietnamese, *(t)* Sudanese and *(u)* Zimbabwean nationals (i) were refused asylum in the UK in each of the last 12 months and (ii) are awaiting a decision on an asylum application. [268035]

Mr. Woolas: The following tables show the number of principal applicants refused asylum in the UK over the last 12 months, for which figures have been published, on the requested nationalities. Information on asylum applicants awaiting an initial decision, by nationality, is unavailable and could be obtained only by examination of individual case records at disproportionate cost.

Information on main asylum nationalities is published annually and quarterly. The latest quarterly statistics were published on 24 February 2009 and are available from the Library of the House and from the Home Office Research, Development and Statistics Directorate website at:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/immigration-asylum-stats.html

Refusals at initial decision on asylum applications to the UK[1,2], excluding dependants, 2008 by month

	Afghanistan	*Belarus*	*Burma*	*China*	*Colombia*	*Cuba*	*Dem. Rep. of Congo*	*Dem. People's Rep. of Korea*	*Iran*	*Iraq*	*Israel*
January	105	*	*	135	*	*	15	5	110	80	*
February	105	5	5	70	*	—	15	10	100	100	*
March	100	—	5	45	*	—	15	5	75	100	*
April	115	—	5	75	—	*	15	10	105	95	—
May	85	—	5	70	*	—	15	10	100	65	*
June	100	*	5	85	*	—	15	10	125	80	*
July	155	5	10	75	—	—	20	10	145	105	—
August	115	5	5	55	5	—	20	10	105	75	*
September	145	*	5	70	*	*	10	5	100	90	*
October	125	*	*	50	—	—	20	5	155	100	*
November	115	5	*	45	—	—	15	5	145	115	—
December	105	—	*	35	*	*	10	*	105	70	—
Total	1,365	20	45	810	10	5	185	90	1,365	1,080	10

	Nepal	*Pakistan*	*Russia*	*Saudi Arabia*	*Sudan*	*Syria*	*Turkmenistan*	*Uzbekistan*	*Vietnam*	*Zimbabwe*
January	—	50	5	—	10	5	—	—	5	80
February	*	60	*	—	10	5	—	—	15	100
March	*	60	*	—	15	5	*	—	10	90
April	*	75	5	—	5	5	—	5	5	175
May	*	65	*	—	15	5	—	—	10	200
June	*	45	5	—	10	5	*	—	5	255
July	5	75	5	*	15	15	*	*	5	285
August	*	55	*	—	10	10	—	—	10	235
September	5	55	5	—	10	10	—	*	10	240
October	—	70	*	5	15	5	—	*	10	240
November	—	65	5	5	5	5	5	—	5	105
December	—	55	*	5	10	5	—	*	5	15
Total	15	725	35	15	140	80	5	5	95	2,020

[1] Provisional figures rounded to nearest five ('—' = 0, '*' = one or two).

[2] Information is of initial decisions, excluding the outcome of appeals or other subsequent decisions.

Borders: Personal Records

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the 2009 project milestones are for the e-Borders programme. [264189]

Mr. Woolas: The target for handling 100 million passenger movements is now scheduled for end of June 2009.

The programme remains on track to meet the milestone of capturing 60 per cent. (equivalent of 120 million passenger movements) of all passenger movements by December 2009.

Christmas

Mr. Rob Wilson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether it is her Department's policy to offer staff *(a)* additional leave entitlement for Christmas shopping and *(b)* Christmas bonus payments. [262816]

Mr. Woolas: It is not the policy of the Home Office and its agencies to offer staff additional leave entitlement for Christmas shopping. Neither is it the policy of the Home Office and its agencies to offer staff Christmas bonus payments.

Departmental Data Protection

Paul Holmes: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) how many staff in her Department and its agencies were *(a)* investigated, *(b)* disciplined and *(c)* dismissed for (i) not following practice and protocols when handling files and databases containing personal information on members of the public, (ii) losing or mishandling sensitive personal data and (iii) gaining or attempting to gain unauthorised access to personal information in each year since 1997; [240938]

(2) how many staff in her Department and its agencies were *(a)* investigated, *(b)* disciplined and *(c)* dismissed for (i) not following practice and protocols

when handling files and databases containing personal information on members of the public, (ii) losing or mishandling sensitive personal data and (iii) gaining or attempting to gain unauthorised access to personal information in each year since 1997. [262343]

Mr. Woolas: Information can be provided only from 2005 onwards—records prior to this are not held centrally and could be obtained only at a disproportionate cost.

2005-06

	Investigated				*Disciplined*				*Dismissed*			
	HO	*UKBA*	*IPS*	*CRB*	*HO*	*UKBA*	*IPS*	*CRB*	*HO*	*UKBA*	*IPS*	*CRB*
1. Not following practice and protocols when handling files and databases containing personal information on members of the public	0	n/a	[1]—	0	0	[1]—	[1]—	0	0	[1]—	[1]—	0
2. Losing/ mishandling sensitive personal data	0	n/a	[1]—	0	0	0	[1]—	0	0	0	[1]—	0
3. Gaining or attempting to gain unauthorised access to personal information	0	n/a	0	0	0	[1]—	0	0	0	[1]—	0	0

2006-07

	Investigated				*Disciplined*				*Dismissed*			
	HO	*UKBA*	*IPS*	*CRB*	*HO*	*UKBA*	*IPS*	*CRB*	*HO*	*UKBA*	*IPS*	*CRB*
1. Not following practice and protocols when handling files and databases containing personal information on members of the public	0	n/a	7	0	0	0	6	0	0	[1]—	5	0
2. Losing/ mishandling sensitive personal data	0	n/a	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	[1]—	0	0
3. Gaining or attempting to gain unauthorised access to personal information	0	n/a	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

2007-08

	Investigated				*Disciplined*				*Dismissed*			
	HO	*UKBA*	*IPS*	*CRB*	*HO*	*UKBA*	*IPS*	*CRB*	*HO*	*UKBA*	*IPS*	*CRB*
1. Not following practice and protocols when handling files and databases containing personal information on members of the public	0	n/a	9	0	0	[1]—	8	0	0	[1]—	7	0
2. Losing/ mishandling sensitive personal data	[1]—	n/a	[1]—	0	[1]—	[1]—	0	0	[1]—	0	[1]—	0
3. Gaining or attempting to gain unauthorised access to personal information	[1]—	n/a	0	0	[1]—	[1]—	0	0	[1]—	0	0	0

n/a = Not available. UKBA do not record the information in relation to the total number of staff investigated for offences relating to the above categories as the reason for the investigation is not recorded at the investigation stage of the disciplinary process.

[1] Where there have been less than five such cases, it is the policy of the Home Office to suppress this information on grounds of confidentiality.

Departmental Lost Property

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether officials in her Department who have lost laptops that were the property of her Department in the last 12 months have been charged the full value of replacement. [266226]

Mr. Woolas: The majority of the IT equipment used across the Home Office is provided and supported by our IT service providers under contract. Any replacement of IT equipment is an integral part of the contract and is not costed separately.

It is not the policy of the Home Office to charge members of staff for the replacement value of lost laptops.

Departmental Press

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much her Department spent on subscriptions for magazines, newspapers and other publications in each of the last 24 months. [242217]

Mr. Woolas: The Department's expenditure is set out in the following table:

Home Office expenditure on magazines, newspapers and other publications in each of the last 24 months (July 2008)

	Expenditure (£)
2006	
July	7,365.00
August	5,162.00
September	14,974.00
October	33,321.00
November	13,013.00
December	8,314.00
2007	
January	6,874.00
February	4,805.00
March	9,742.00
April	8,546.00
May	5,916.00
June	5,417.00
July	5,943.00
August	6,553.00
September	6,036.00
October	17,128.00
November	22,650.00
December	18,570.00
2008	
January	9,186.00
February	6,169.00
March	10,763.00
April	5,151.00
May	4,743.00
June	3,987.00
Total expenditure July 2006 to June 2008	240,328.00

Note:
All expenditure is incurred in accordance with the principles of Managing Public Money and the Treasury Handbook on Regularity & Propriety.

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much her Department has spent on newspapers, magazines and periodicals in each year since 1997. [261181]

Mr. Woolas: The suppliers of journals and newspapers to the Home Office can only provide figures for supply to the entire Home Office for the last three years. We do not hold figures for overall Home Office expenditure on these publications prior to this date.

Expenditure on newspapers and journals for period 2006-08

£

	SWETS (journals)	*Jones Yarrell (newspapers)*	*Total*
2006	76,091.00	2,476.27	78,567.27
2007	61,406.01	47,938.99	109,345.00
2008	45,998.62	35,846.16	81,844.78

Departmental Publications

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what estimate she has made of the *(a)* production and printing and *(b)* other costs to her Department of producing its most recent (i) departmental annual report and (ii) autumn performance report. [266692]

Mr. Woolas: The information requested is as follows:

(a) To the nearest £1,000, the 2008 departmental report cost £34,000 to produce and print, and the 2008 autumn performance report cost £5,000. These figures include the costs of design, typesetting and printing.

(b) Producing and reviewing the text and data contained in both documents involves staff across the Home Office and other departments, and it is not possible to produce an estimate of the costs of their time without incurring disproportionate cost.

Detainees: Afghanistan

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the written ministerial statement of 5 March 2009, *Official Report*, columns 65-67WS, on the Justice and Home Affairs Council, what discussions she had with her EU counterparts on the return of Guantanamo detainees at the lunchtime meeting during the Justice and Home Affairs Council on 26 February 2009. [266187]

Jacqui Smith: During the Justice and Home Council on 26 February 2009 I took part in a closed working lunch for Interior Ministers during which there was an informal exchange of views on the situation in Guantanamo. Specifically, for the first time, Interior Ministers discussed the decision by US President Barack Obama to close the Guantanamo detention centre within a year.

Following discussion in the General Affairs and External Relations Council on 26 January, where it was recognised that the primary responsibility for closing Guantanamo rests with the United States, discussions focused on whether there were ways in which member states could assist the United States, given common interests in counter-terrorism, human rights and the rule of law. It was also acknowledged that such potential assistance raised a number of political, legal and security issues which would need further study and consultation.

Ministers agreed that any decision to accept former detainees was a national decision. Ministers also agreed that further discussion with the United States on this matter was desirable.

Detainees: Immigration

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many asylum seekers have been detained in immigration removal centres for *(a)* working illegally and *(b)* offences under section 7 of the Theft Act 1968 in each year since 2001. [264500]

Jacqui Smith: We do not hold the information requested centrally and it would require each record to be examined individually, which would be at disproportionate cost.

Domestic Violence: Crime Prevention

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent steps her Department has taken to reduce incidents of domestic violence in *(a)* Coventry and *(b)* the West Midlands. [265067]

Mr. Alan Campbell *[holding answer 24 March 2009]:* Every Government office received £350,000 in 2008-09 to support work to tackle domestic and sexual violence across their region. In Coventry a range of initiatives have been supported such as: early intervention pilots, an independent domestic violence adviser and associated training, a domestic violence enforcement campaign and capacity building to support the roll out of the Coventry Multi Agency Risk Assessment conference.

Group of Twenty: London Summit

Mr. Holloway: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer of 18 March 2009, *Official Report*, columns 1186-7W, on Group of Twenty: London Summit, how much of the cost to the public purse is accounted for by policing costs. [266082]

Mr. Coaker *[holding answer 24 March 2009]:* Policing costs are an operational matter for the Chief Officers of the forces concerned.

Of the current estimate of £19 million for the costs of the London Summit it is thought that about a third of this is related to policing and security costs.

Illegal Immigrants: Expenditure

Damian Green: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much her Department spent on establishing the identity of *(a)* illegal immigrants and *(b)* foreign national prisoners in 2008. [267447]

Mr. Woolas: Efforts to establish the identity of a foreign national typically form a part of overall enforcement activities. As such it is not possible to disaggregate the funding and other resources in place to establish the identity of a foreign national from the overall budget and resources attributed to enforcement activities.

Appendix A of the UK Border Agency Business Plan for April 2008 to March 2011 contains a table which shows the overall budget allocation and staffing plans for the agency for the current financial year. This document is available to view in the Library of the House and at the following website:

www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/sitecontent/documents/aboutus/businessplan

Immigration Controls: Overseas Students

Mr. Oaten: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer of 12 March 2009, *Official Report*, columns 636-37W, on immigration controls: educational institutions, what will be acceptable as verifiable evidence that the necessary funds are available. [267785]

Mr. Woolas *[holding answer 30 March 2009]:* The information requested by the hon. Gentleman is set out in paragraph 132 of the Tier 4 Policy guidance. This document is available in the House of Commons Library and has also been published on the UK Border Agency website.

Khat

Mr. Sarwar: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if she will consider the merits of *(a)* controlling and *(b)* prohibiting the sale of khat under the Misuse of Drugs Act 1971. [264909]

Mr. Alan Campbell: Pursuant to our commitment in the Government's 2008 Drug Strategy Action Plan, we are currently updating our understanding of the individual and social harms caused by khat use, the needs of khat users and their families, and its impact on the UK Somali, Ethiopian and Yemeni communities. Following the outcome of this research work, we will reconsider our position on the control of khat under the Misuse of Drugs Act 1971. This consideration will look at the various options for control.

Members: Correspondence

Sir Gerald Kaufman: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when she plans to reply to the letter of 10 February 2009 from the right hon. Member for Manchester, Gorton, with regard to Mr T Veal. [266373]

Jacqui Smith: I wrote to my right hon. Friend on 25 March 2009.

Mr. Winnick: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when she plans to provide a substantive reply to the letter from the hon. Member for Walsall North of 17 February 2009 to the Chief Executive of the Highways Agency concerning a constituent, reference M3560/9. [267784]

Mr. Woolas *[holding answer 30 March 2009]:* The chief executive of the UK Border Agency, Lin Homer, wrote to my hon. Friend on 25 March 2009.

Sir Gerald Kaufman: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when she plans to reply to the letter to her dated 19 February 2009 from the right hon. Member for Manchester Gorton with regard to Rana Faisal Mahmood. [268027]

Jacqui Smith: I wrote to my right hon. Friend on 25 March 2009.

Metropolitan Police: Complaints

Mr. Meacher: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what discussions she has had with *(a)* the Commissioner of Police for the Metropolis and *(b)* the Metropolitan Police Authority on the steps to be taken by the Metropolitan Police Service following the High Court judgment in the case of Babar Ahmad. [267170]

Mr. Coaker *[holding answer 27 March 2009]:* I have noted the High Court decision in the Babar Ahmad case. This is an operational matter and is for the Metropolitan Police Service and the Metropolitan Police Authority.

National Wildlife Crime Unit

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much her Department has allocated to the National Wildlife Crime Unit in each year since its inception. [266955]

Mr. Alan Campbell: The Home Office funded the National Wildlife Crime Unit in the financial years 2006-07 and 2007-08 at a total amount of £15,367.28 and then at a total of £150,000 in 2008-09. The increase in the contribution was to secure the unit's continued future operation and to match the level of funding contributed by DEFRA.

Offences Against Children

Margaret Moran: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if she will publish the results of Operation Glover against organised criminal sexual exploitation. [267015]

Mr. Alan Campbell: Operation Glover was a successful operational policing exercise, the main outcomes of which were contained in pages 32-33 of the July 2008 update of the UK Action Plan on Tackling Human Trafficking. A copy of the plan was placed in the Library. No formal report of the operation was produced, and no further results will be published.

Offensive Weapons: Crime Prevention

Lynne Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what steps she is taking to reduce levels of knife crime; and what assessment she has made of the efficacy of each type of intervention. [266405]

Mr. Alan Campbell: In June last year, the Government, with the support of the police service, launched the Tackling Knives Action Programme (TKAP) to address the pressing concern around teenage knife crime in England and Wales, focusing resources in 10 areas of the country. In total, over £5 million was given for targeted action. On 11 March, the Home Secretary announced the extension to the Programme for another year, with an extended focus on gang-related and serious youth violence, targeting 13 to 24-year-olds. Two new police forces, Hampshire and Kent, have also now joined the programme.

In the past 10 months, the TKAP forces and their local areas have undertaken a wide range of work to clamp down on teenage knife violence. This includes enforcement operations, education and other work with schools, and an award-winning marketing campaign.

Provisional data published by the Department of Health on 12 March show encouraging results to date. In June to November 2008 there were 31 per cent. fewer admissions to NHS hospitals for stab wounds, among those aged 13 to 19 years, in the nine English TKAP areas, compared to the same period last year. This is compared to an 18 per cent. reduction in non-TKAP areas over the same period.

Police: Publicity

Mr. Greg Knight: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much funding has been allocated to advertising the policing pledge on radio in the United Kingdom; and what the objectives of this advertising campaign are. [267373]

Mr. Coaker *[holding answer 30 March 2009]:* The Home Office have spent £670,000 on buying radio advertising in England and Wales to advertise the Policing Pledge.

The campaign's objectives are to raise awareness and understanding of the Policing Pledge, explain the public's entitlement and signpost the public to further sources of information.

Roads: Accidents

Mr. Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many *(a)* arrests, *(b)* prosecutions and *(c)* convictions there have been of drivers of high vehicles for offences committed in connection with crashes with low bridges in the last five years. [267300]

Mr. Alan Campbell: The information requested on arrests is not collected centrally.

The arrests collection held by the Home Office covers arrests for recorded crime (notifiable offences) only, broken down at a main offence group level, covering categories such as violence against the person and robbery. It is not possible to separately identify offences of dangerous and careless driving from within these offence groups.

Additionally, data held centrally by the Ministry of Justice on court proceedings for motoring offences do not contain information about the type of vehicle involved, other than the description provided in the statute under which proceedings are brought. Information is also not held centrally on the circumstances which were brought to the courts' attention as part of the proceedings.

Stop and Search: Greater London

Mr. Evennett: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many individuals were found to be carrying illegal *(a)* weapons and *(b)* drugs during stop and search procedures by the police in (i) Bexley and (ii) London in each of the last 10 years. [266902]

Mr. Alan Campbell: Information on the number of arrests arising from stop and search procedures for illegal weapons and drugs in Greater London from 1998-99 (previous data too unreliable) to 2006-07 (latest available) are provided in the table. Information for 2007-08 is due to be published on 30 April 2009.

The information reported to the Home Office on searches is broken down at police force area level only and cannot separately identify arrests resulting from searches conducted in Bexley.

Number persons arrested for the possession of offensive weapons and drugs after stop and search procedures by police in Greater London[1], 1997-98 to 2006-07

	Stop and searches under the Police and Criminal Evidence Act 1984		*Searches in anticipation of violence under Section 60 of the Criminal Justice and Public Order Act 1994*
	Arrests for offensive weapons	*Arrests for drugs*	*Number of arrests for possession of offensive weapons or dangerous instruments*
1998-99	3,303	15,565	—
1999-00	2,657	11,692	3
2000-01	2,881	10,848	7
2001-02	3,450	12,293	89
2002-03	3,533	15,912	119
2003-04	2,692	10,845	18
2004-05	2,656	7,747	23
2005-06	3,432	9,746	75
2006-07	3,265	11,197	93

[1] Includes City of London and Metropolitan Police.

Note:

Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when these data are used.

Telecommunications: Databases

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer of 4 March 2009, *Official Report,* column 1642W, on telecommunications: databases, when the public consultation process will commence. [264899]

Jacqui Smith: The communications data consultation publication date is currently being finalised. We intend to publish the document shortly.

Terrorism

Patrick Mercer: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer of 11 March 2009, *Official Report,* column 925W, on terrorism, how much *(a)* has been spent and *(b)* is expected to be spent by police forces in England and Wales on the delivery of counter-terrorism local profiles. [265404]

Mr. Coaker: Production of counter-terrorism local profiles (CTLPs) is a core function of police CT environments, and spending on CTLPs is not recorded separately. However, in order to provide support to the first round of production, we are making total funding of £688,252 available for 2009-10 to forces to increase analytical resources.

Work Permits: Video Games

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many work permits were issued to employers in the video games department industry in each of the last 10 years. [267565]

Mr. Woolas: The breakdown of work permits issued to employers in the video games depa[illegible] industry in each of the last 10 years is not availab[illegible] format requested. Work permits were issued to employers for individual posts and are not identifiable for this specific sector.

HEALTH

Abortion

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Health with reference to the answer to the then hon. Member for Ilford North of 16 July 1996, *Official Report,* columns 494-6, on abortion, if he will make a statement on the statistically most likely candidate in *(a)* England and Wales and *(b)* each health authority for an abortion in the latest year for which figures are available in terms of (i) the marital status of the woman, (ii) the age of the woman, (iii) the gestation of the pregnancy, (iv) the number of previous children born by the woman, *(e)* the number of previous abortions undergone by the woman and *(f)* the legal grounds under which the abortion was performed; and how many abortions were performed in each health authority in each year since 1979, broken down by the above categories. [266966]

Dawn Primarolo: The information for 2007 is shown in the following table. The same information for the previous 28 years could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Most common[1] conditions for women having abortions in 2007, by strategic health authority of residence

	Marital Status	*Age*	*Gestation*	*Number of previous children*	*Number of previous abortions*	*Ground*
England and Wales	Single with partner	19	7	0	0	C
East Midlands	Single no partner	19	8	0	0	C
East of England	Single no partner	19	8	0	0	C
London	Single with partner	23	7	0	0	C
North East	Single with partner	20	8	0	0	C
North West	Single with partner	19	8	0	0	C
South Central	Single with partner	19	7	0	0	C
South East Coast	Single with partner	18	7	0	0	C
South West	Single with partner	19	8	0	0	C
West Midlands	Single with partner	20	7	0	0	C

Most common[1] conditions for women having abortions in 2007, by strategic health authority of residence

	Marital Status	Age	Gestation	Number of previous children	Number of previous abortions	Ground
Yorkshire and Humber	Single with partner	19	8	0	0	C
Wales	Single with partner	19	8	0	0	C

[1] Statistical mode (highest frequency)

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what files his Department holds on *(a)* the Termination of Pregnancy Bill of Session 2005-06 and *(b)* the Termination of Pregnancy Bill of Session 2006-07; and if he will make a statement. [266972]

Dawn Primarolo: There is one registered file held by the Department covering the Termination of Pregnancy Bill of Session 2005-06 and 2006-07.

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many abortions have been performed within each health authority under the provisions of the Abortion Act 1967 in the last 30 years; and how many and what percentage of those abortions were performed in emergency to save the life of the mother. [266980]

Dawn Primarolo: Information on abortions by health authority for 30-years could be provided only at disproportionate cost. The number of abortions performed in England and Wales on residents of England and Wales in the 30-years from 1978 to 2007, was 4.8 million. Of these, around 160 (0.004 per cent.) were performed under section 1(4) of the Abortion Act 1967, where the termination is immediately necessary to save the life or to prevent grave permanent injury to the physical or mental health of the pregnant woman. Between 2003 and 2007 totals performed under section 1(4) were less than 10 (between 0 and nine) and are suppressed for reasons of confidentiality in line with Office for National Statistics guidance on the release of abortion statistics (2005).

Alcoholic Drinks: Misuse

Ms Keeble: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many girls and young women aged between *(a)* 10 and 16, *(b)* 17 and 21, *(c)* 22 and 26 and *(d)* over 26 years have been hospitalised for alcohol-related conditions in each of the last five years. [266812]

Dawn Primarolo: Data on the number of individual girls and young women hospitalised for alcohol-related conditions are not available, however data on the number of alcohol-related hospital admissions for girls and young women are available and are given in the following table. It is important to note that:

an individual may account for more than one admission,

the data given in the following table are for alcohol-related hospital admissions only, as data are not available centrally from which alcohol-related attendances in accident and emergency (A and E) departments can be identified, and

most attendances at A and E will not result in admission to hospital.

Finished alcohol-related admissions of females aged 10 or over, 2003-04 to 2007-08

Age	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08
10 to 16	4,472	4,869	5,255	5,214	5,408
17 to 21	8,695	9,772	11,729	11,856	13,007
22 to 26	8,444	9,470	11,237	11,634	12,132
Over 26	196,625	221,267	250,859	271,276	295,296

Notes:
Includes activity in English national health service hospitals and English NHS commissioned activity in the independent sector.
Alcohol-related admissions:
The number of alcohol-related admissions is based on the methodology developed by the North West Public Health Observatory (NWPHO). Following international best practice, the NWPHO methodology includes a wide range of diseases and injuries in which alcohol plays a part and estimates the proportion of cases that are attributable to the consumption of alcohol. Details of the conditions and associated proportions can be found in the report Jones et al. (2008) Alcohol-attributable fractions for England: Alcohol-attributable mortality and hospital admissions.
Figures for under 16s only include admissions where one or more alcohol-specific conditions were listed. This is because the research on which the attributable fractions are based does not cover under 16s. Alcohol-specific conditions are those that are wholly attributed to alcohol—that is, those with an attributable fraction of one. They are:
Alcoholic cardiomyopathy (142.6)
Alcoholic gastritis (K29.2)
Alcoholic myopathy (G72.1)
Alcoholic polyneuropathy (G62.1)
Alcohol-induced pseudo-Cushing's syndrome (E24.4)
Degeneration of nervous system due to alcohol (G31.2)
Mental and behavioural disorders due to use of alcohol (F10)
Accidental poisoning by and exposure to alcohol (X45)
Ethanol poisoning (T51.0)
Methanol poisoning (T51.1)
Toxic effect of alcohol, unspecified (T51.9)
Number of episodes in which the patient had an alcohol-related primary or secondary diagnosis These figures represent the number of episodes where an alcohol-related diagnosis was recorded in any of the 20 (14 from 2002-03 to 2006-07 and seven prior to 2002-03) primary and secondary diagnosis fields in a hospital episode statistics (HES) record. Each episode is only counted once in each count, even if an alcohol-related diagnosis is recorded in more than one diagnosis field of the record.
Ungrossed data:
Figures have not been adjusted for shortfalls in data (i.e. the data are ungrossed).
Finished admission episodes:
A finished admission episode is the first period of inpatient care under one consultant within one healthcare provider. Finished admission episodes are counted against the year in which the admission episode finishes. Admissions do not represent the number of inpatients, as a person may have more than one admission within the year.

Primary diagnosis:
The primary diagnosis is the first of up to 20 (14 from 2002-03 to 2006-07 and seven prior to 2002-03) diagnosis fields in the HES data set and provides the main reason why the patient was admitted to hospital.
Secondary diagnosis:
As well as the primary diagnosis, there are up to 19 (13 from 2002-03 to 2007-08 and six prior to 2002-03) secondary diagnosis fields in HES that show other diagnoses relevant to the episode of care.
Data quality:
HES are compiled from data sent by more than 300 NHS trusts and primary care trusts in England.
Data are also received from a number of independent sector organisations for activity commissioned by the English NHS. The NHS Information Centre for health and social care liaises closely with these organisations to encourage submission of complete and valid data and seeks to minimise inaccuracies and the effect of missing and invalid data via HES processes. While this brings about improvement over time, some shortcomings remain.
Assessing growth through time:
HES figures are available from 1989-90 onwards. The quality and coverage of the data have improved over time. These improvements in information submitted by the NHS have been particularly marked in the earlier years and need to be borne in mind when analysing time series.
Some of the increase in figures for later years (particularly 2006-07 onwards) may be due to the improvement in the coverage of independent sector activity.
Changes in NHS practice also need to be borne in mind when analysing time series. For example, a number of procedures may now be undertaken in outpatient settings and may no longer be accounted for in the HES data. This may account for any reductions in activity over time.
Assignment of episodes to years:
Years are assigned by the end of the first period of care in a patient's hospital stay.
Source:
Hospital Episode Statistics (HES), The NHS Information Centre for health and social care

Anchor Trust: Finance

Mr. Jamie Reed: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) how much funding from the NHS has been provided to the Anchor Trust in *(a)* England, *(b)* the North of England, *(c)* Cumbria and *(d)* Copeland constituency in the last 12 months; [267312]

(2) how much the NHS has allocated to the Anchor Trust for the provision of elderly care and nursing care services in Copeland constituency; and over what period. [267313]

Phil Hope: This information is not collected centrally.

Arthritis

Mrs. Dean: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the incidence of rheumatoid arthritis was in the last 12 months. [267572]

Ann Keen: Information on the incidence of rheumatoid arthritis is not collected centrally.

The National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence has estimated an annual incidence rate of approximately 1.5 men and 3.6 women per 10,000 of the United Kingdom population.

Blood: Donors

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 23 February 2009, *Official Report*, column 199W, on blood: donation, for what reasons the units were not transfused. [267379]

Dawn Primarolo: The following table shows total red cell units issued to hospitals in England and North Wales reporting data to the Blood Stocks Management scheme which were not transfused; the percentage of units issued which were not transfused; and a breakdown of the reasons the units were not transfused in each year since 2005-06:

Financial Year	*Red cells issued and not transfused*	*Total percentage red cells issued and not transfused*[1]	*Reason not transfused*[2]	*Percentage breakdown by reason of units issued and not transfused*
2005-06	35,917	2.56	Time Expired	73.8
			OTCOL	18.4
			MISC	5.6
			FF	2.2
2006-07	31,620	2.24	Time Expired	70.2
			OTCOL	21.3
			MISC	7.1
			FF	1.4
2007-08	30,188	2.21	Time Expired	70.2
			OTCOL	21.8
			MISC	5.9
			FF	2.1

[1] Figures given to one decimal place in answer of 23 February 2009, *Official Report*, column 199W.
[2] Wastage reasons:
OTCOL-out of temperature control outside laboratory (unit failed thirty minute rule).
FF-fridge failure (physical failure of blood bank).
MISC-Miscellaneous (any other reason not covered by the other three reasons).

The figures given for the percentage of red cell units issued and not transfused for each financial year correct the information in the written answer given to the hon. Member on 23 February 2009, *Official Report*, column 199W.

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health when the decision to stop supplying *(a)* human serum and *(b)* blood for non-clinical purposes was made by NHS Blood and Transplant; what consultation was undertaken before the decision; how much blood has been used for non-clinical purposes in each of the last 10 years; and what those purposes were. [267517]

Dawn Primarolo: No decision to stop supplying human serum or blood for non-clinical purposes has been made by NHS Blood and Transplant (NHSBT).

The provision of blood for clinical purposes always takes precedence over non-clinical issues. Blood is supplied for non-clinical use according to strict protocols. Wherever possible, blood which is not suitable for therapeutic use for patients is used for this purpose. However, where this is not possible consent is sought from donors.

The following series of tables shows blood issued by NHS Blood and Transplant for non-clinical purposes such as quality assurance; quality control; development; validation; and ethically approved research in each financial year since 2004-05. Information is not available for a complete financial year prior to 2004-05.

Non clinical issue product	*Quantity (units)*
Financial year 2004-05	
Buffy coat residue	669
Buffy coats	4,818
Clinical Spec Research Plasma	32
Clinical Spec Research Red Cells	15
Clinical Spec Research Whole Blood	84
Research plasma—sterile 250	1,180
Research platelets	12
Research red cells	184
Research whole blood	530
Serum	346
Serum group AB	452
Serum—non AB	1,017
Time Expired Apheresis Platelets internal use only	12
Time expired Neonatal platelets	8
Time Expired Platelets	20
Financial year 2005-06	
Buffy Coat Residue	2,286
Buffy coats	4,615
Clinical Spec Research Plasma	5
Clinical Spec Research Red Cells	15
Clinical Spec Research Whole Blood	166
Leukocyte Filters	179
Research Cryo Depleted Plasma	3
Research Plasma—sterile 250	1,310
Research platelets	22
Research red cells	162
Research whole blood	638
Serum group AB	261
Serum—non AB	1,508
Serum—non AB (OPC)	239
Time Expired Apheresis Platelets (internal use only)	14
Time expired platelets	19
Time expired red cells	22
Whole Blood—Filter residue	2,564
Financial year 2006-07	
Buffy Coat Residue	801
Buffy coats	4,614
Clinical Spec Research Plasma	4
Clinical Spec Research Red Cells	22
Clinical Spec Research Whole Blood	194
Cryoprecipitate—internal use only	7
Leukocyte Filters	74
Research Cryo Depleted Plasma	12
Research plasma—sterile 250	1,271
Research platelets	17
Research red cells	176
Research whole blood	676
Serum	97
Serum group AB	405
Serum—non AB	1,295
Time Expired Apheresis Platelets (internal use only)	24
Time Expired Platelets	86
Time Expired red cells	7
Financial year 2007-08	
Buffy Coat Residue	919
Buffy coats	4,895
Clinical Spec Research Plasma	3
Clinical Spec Research Platelets	4
Clinical Spec Research Red Cells	15
Clinical Spec Research Whole Blood	241
Leukocyte Filters	58
Research Cryo Depleted Plasma	1
Research Plasma—sterile 250	1,447
Research platelets	36
Research platelets—marginal cost	13
Research red cells	104
Research whole blood	906
Serum	277
Serum group AB	316
Serum—non AB	1,245
Time Expired Apheresis Platelets (internal use only)	1
Time expired platelets	77
Time expired red cells	57
Whole Blood filter residue	21
Financial year 2008-09 (up to 28 February 2009)	
Buffy Coat Residue	693
Buffy coats	4,710
Clinical Spec Research Plasma	6
Clinical Spec Research Red Cells	16
Clinical Spec Research Whole Blood	213
Internal only—CRYO	1
Internal only—Platelets	30
Leukocyte Filters	246
Research Cryo Depleted Plasma	1
Research plasma—sterile 250	1,226
Research platelets	1
Research red cells	99
Research whole blood	766
Serum group AB	163
Serum—non AB	708
Serum—non AB—1001	128
Time Expired Platelets	95
Time expired red cells	66
Whole Blood filter residue	30

Care Homes: Closures

Mr. Jamie Reed: To ask the Secretary of State for Health under what circumstances private nursing and elderly care home providers are able to withdraw services provided under contract by them for elderly people. [267317]

Phil Hope: The circumstances under which a contract can be terminated will depend on the terms and conditions in the contract. The detail of contracting arrangements between local authorities and independent sector providers of care is a matter for local decision. We think it is important that local authorities are able to tailor contracts as necessary to specific local circumstances.

Each local authority should have contingency plans, drawn up in consultation with service providers, for dealing with situations where residents, whose care it arranged, need to move. Each local authority is responsibility for protecting the welfare of people for whom it arranges care.

Care Homes: Copeland

Mr. Jamie Reed: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps his Department has taken to ensure that money given by the NHS to the Anchor Trust in Copeland is used in Copeland for the purposes for which it was provided. [267314]

Phil Hope: It is for primary care trusts to decide their priorities for investment locally taking into account both local priorities and the national health service operating framework.

Care Homes: Fees and Charges

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health with reference to the contribution of the hon. Member for Bury South on 11 December 2007, *Official Report*, column 52WH, when the Government plan to provide care home self-funders with access to an independent element in the complaints process. [268141]

Phil Hope: The Health Bill, currently before Parliament, contains provisions to extend the remit of the Local Government Ombudsman to allow service users who purchase their own adult social care services to have their complaint investigated by the Ombudsman. Subject to the passage of legislation, it is intended that the new scheme should be implemented in 2010.

Care Homes: Manpower

Mr. Burstow: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what recent assessment he has made of the effect of the introduction of the points-based immigration system on the supply and cost of labour in the *(a)* care home and *(b)* home care sectors; and if he will make a statement; [267229]

(2) what recent discussions he has had with the Secretary of State for the Home Department on the effect of the introduction of the points-based immigration system on the supply and cost of labour in the *(a)* care home and *(b)* home care sectors; and if he will make a statement. [267230]

Phil Hope: Following the Migration Advisory Committee's (MAC) recommendations announced in September 2008 the Department has been working closely with the Home Office and MAC to review the evidence in the care home and home care sectors.

Care Homes: Standards

Mr. Jamie Reed: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what statistical tools his Department uses to model *(a)* the quality of life and *(b)* life expectancy of elderly nursing home residents in the event of the displacement of these residents. [267315]

Phil Hope: The Department does not model the quality of life or the life expectancy of residents in care homes in the event of their displacement from a care home.

All care homes are regulated by the Commission for Social Care Inspection (CSCI) in accordance with statutory regulations and national minimum standards to ensure residents receive good quality and safe care. CSCI does not separately consider the quality of life and life expectancy of people who have changed care homes.

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health with reference to the answer to the hon. Member for Eastbourne of 27 November 2007, *Official Report*, column 416W, on care homes: standards, if he will place in the Library a copy of the report on the review of the National Framework for NHS Continuing Healthcare and NHS-funded Nursing Care. [267823]

Phil Hope: The review of the National Framework for NHS Continuing Healthcare and NHS-funded Nursing Care is ongoing. The revised Framework and support tools will be published later this year.

Chlamydia

Anne Milton: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much on average it has cost the NHS to perform a Chlamydia test in *(a)* genito-urinary medicine clinics, *(b)* GP surgeries and *(c)* pharmacies in each of the last five years. [266644]

Dawn Primarolo: Information on the costs to the national health service of Chlamydia testing in genitourinary medicine (GUM) clinics, general practitioner (GP) surgeries and pharmacies is not available centrally.

In GUM, Chlamydia testing is routinely undertaken as part of a broader sexual health screen. In 2009-10, GUM clinics will attract the national tariff payment of £139 for each first attendance and £86 of £119 for any follow up attendance depending on the clinical complexity.

For Chlamydia screening within the National Chlamydia Screening programme (NCSP), in an article "Modelling the healthcare costs of an opportunistic chlamydia screening programme" published in the Sexually Transmitted Infection Journal on 1 April 2004, average estimates costs based on the pilot screening model in general practices and contraceptive and sexual health services are as follows:

for those screened and not infected (the majority of those screened): £18-£25;

for those screened and infected (includes costs of treatment and initiation of partner notification): £34-£42; and

for partner treatment: £24-£30.

A copy of the article has been placed in the Library.

In a further article, "The health care and patient costs of an proactive Chlamydia screening programme: the Chlamydia Screening Studies (ClaSS) project", published in the *British Medical Journal* online, 17 January 2007 came up with similar costings. A copy of the publication has been placed in the Library.

The NCSP is currently reviewing costing of Chlamydia screening in the community and developing appropriate tariffs, in collaboration with the contraceptive and integrated sexual health services tariff development group.

Different variations of Chlamydia screening pathways are being costed: in Contraceptive and Integrated Sexual Health Services, in general practices, in pharmacies, mail outs and postal Chlamydia screening kit. This review will be completed later this year.

Clinical Trials: EU Law

Mr. Todd: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether he has made an assessment of the impact of the EU Clinical Trials Directive on medical research activity in England; and if he will make a statement. [265549]

Dawn Primarolo: The Medicines for Human Use (Clinical Trials) Regulations 2004 transpose the provisions of the EU Clinical Trials Directive into United Kingdom law. UK stakeholders were widely consulted before implementation and continue to provide feedback.

The pharmaceutical industry has consistently confirmed that it is content with the broad thrust of the Directive, and that it reinforces systems and practices to which it already conforms. In collaboration with partners in the UK Clinical Research Collaboration, including research charities, the Medical Research Council and universities, the government is in dialogue with the research community about further opportunities to reduce the burden of regulation, taking account of risk. Departmental officials have arranged a workshop on dismantling barriers to clinical research for 30 April 2009.

The challenges to medical research arise only in part from the implementation of the Directive. In 2006, the Government published a comprehensive health research strategy Best Research for Best Health setting out a range of measures to transform the health research environment. These measures have begun to take effect. A copy of the strategy has already been placed in the Library.

A UK-wide regulatory and governance advice service now gives researchers free access to expert advice regulation. Research ethics committees are now organised in a national research ethics service which facilitates and promotes ethical research by maintain a consistent UK-wide system of ethical review. An integrated research application system now offers a single point from which to apply for permissions and approvals for health and care research in the UK, enabling researchers to enter the information about their project once instead of duplicating information in separate application forms. The National Institute for Health Research coordinated system for gaining National Health Service permission will standardise and streamline the process for gaining NHS permission in England. These measures are reducing approval times and bureaucracy

The Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency publishes information monthly and in its annual report on the number of applications for clinical trials of medicines in the UK. The data show that the total numbers of clinical trials in the UK have remained stable since the implementation of the Directive. There are 3,000 trials currently active in the UK of which some 25 per cent. are from non-commercial sponsors, the highest figure in the European Union.

Representatives of many UK stakeholders contributed to a European Commission conference in October 2007 on the operation of the clinical trials directive and perspectives for the future. The conference identified the perceived benefits and difficulties and made a number of recommendations for change. The Commission has since announced it will make an assessment of the application of the Directive with a view to making legislative proposals by 2010.

Dementia: Sight Impaired

Dr. Naysmith: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what estimate he has made of the number of people with dementia who have an undetected visual problem; [268002]

(2) what estimate he has made of the number of people with dementia and serious sight loss. [268006]

Phil Hope: The Department does not have information on the number of people with dementia who have an undetected visual problem or serious sight loss.

Dental Services

Norman Lamb: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the funding allocation for dentistry is in each primary care trust area in each of the next two years. [267747]

Ann Keen: This information is not yet available.

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health when the NHS Information Centre plans to publish information on the number of patients seen by dentists in each primary care trust area; when the information was first scheduled for publication; what the reasons are for the time taken to publish these data; and if he will make a statement. [267887]

Ann Keen: The latest figures published by the NHS Information Centre for health and social care on the number of patients seen by a national health service dentist in each primary care trust (PCT) were released on 26 February 2009. These were included within the 'NHS Dental Statistics for England, Quarter 2: 30 September 2008' report.

Patients seen information by PCT is available in Table DI of Annex 3 of the above report. The latest period that they contained data for was the 24-month period ending 30 September 2008.

This report has already been placed in the Library and is also available on the NHS Information Centre website at:

www.ic.nhs.uk/pubs/dentalstats0809q2

Patients seen information is published quarterly. The NHS Information Centre expects to publish the next patients seen information on 21 May 2009. This publication will contain information on patients seen by an NHS dentist in the 24-month period ending 31 December 2008.

Sub-national information on patients seen was not published on 21 August 2008 as part of the end of year 'NHS Dental Statistics for England 2007/08' report due to concerns over the allocation of patients to PCTs across the various quarters. These concerns were examined by the NHS Information Centre in consultation with the NHS Dental Services of the NHS Business Services Authority and were addressed by the inclusion of additional technical information to enhance interpretation of the patient seen measure in the 'NHS Dental Statistics for England, Quarter 1: 30 June 2008' report, published on 27 November 2008. This report contained sub-national information on the numbers of patients seen for the 24-month period ending 30 June 2008 as usual, and also included the information for the 24-month period 31 March 2008, originally omitted from the 2007-08 end of year report.

This report has already been placed in the Library and is also available on the NHS Information Centre website at:

www.ic.nhs.uk/pubs/dentalstats0809q1

Dental Services: Registration

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what criteria he takes into account in determining approval for the registration *(a)* fees and *(b)* requirements for dental care professionals proposed by the General Dental Council. [267244]

Ann Keen: The General Dental Council (GDC) is responsible for setting its fees. The Department has no role in approving either fees or related registration requirements for dental care professionals proposed by the GDC.

Departmental Buildings

Dr. Pugh: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what buildings are owned or operated by his Department under a private finance initiative (PFI) arrangement; and which companies are involved with each such PFI arrangement. [267411]

Mr. Bradshaw: The Department operates in two buildings that are under a private finance initiative (PFI) arrangement but is not the major occupier in either building. The Department operates in these buildings under a Memorandum of Terms of Occupation (MOTO) with the Department for Work and Pensions and HM Revenue and Customs.

A wider list of non-centrally procured schemes is at:

www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/d/pfi_signed_projects_list.xls

Dietary Supplements: EU Law

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate he has made of the likely effect of setting levels for vitamins and minerals in food supplements under Article 5 of the Food Supplements Directive on the number of independent health food retailers in the UK; and what recent representations he has received from *(a)* right hon. and hon. Members and *(b)* others about the effects of this legislation on UK businesses and consumers. [267684]

Dawn Primarolo: No specific levels for vitamins and minerals in food supplements have yet been proposed by the European Commission or discussed in Commission working group meetings with member states. In the absence of specific levels, it is not possible to assess the effect on independent health food retailers in the United Kingdom.

We have received representations from right hon. and hon. Members, the food supplements industry and consumers about the effects of setting levels for vitamins and minerals in food supplements, in the form of correspondence and in meetings.

The Government continue to work with the food supplements industry in exploring approaches to assess the impact of levels, when they are proposed, on UK businesses and consumer choice and to ensure that any impact on small and medium enterprises is considered fully.

Doctors: Disciplinary Proceedings

Mr. Jenkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many NHS doctors are suspended; and for how long each has been suspended. [268097]

Ann Keen: Information relating to the number of doctors who are currently suspended, and for how long, is not collected centrally.

Ex-servicemen: Rehabilitation

Mr. Burrowes: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) how much the Government has spent on alcohol and drug addiction treatment for service veterans in each of the last five years; [267360]

(2) what recent assessment has been made of the level of demand for drug and alcohol addiction treatment for service veterans; and if he will make a statement. [267361]

Dawn Primarolo: The information requested is not collected centrally.

Primary care trusts (PCTs) are responsible for determining their local health needs and priorities, including those for service veterans, and providing services to meet these needs and priorities and are free to decide how much to spend on alcohol and drug services.

The cost of alcohol treatment, including that for addiction, is met through national health service mainstream expenditure in line with local needs and priorities and is not collected centrally.

Since 2001, the Department and the Home Office have provided specific resources for drug treatment in the form of the pooled drug treatment budget (PTB). This funding is allocated to the 149 drug action teams across the country to use, along with local mainstream funding, to provide for treatment and services according to the specific needs of each locality. £406 million has been made available by the Government in 2009-10 specifically for drug treatment through the PTB.

The Operating Framework for the NHS requires PCTs and providers, when commissioning services, to take account of military personnel, their families and veterans in their area. It asks PCTs to assure themselves that their services do not disadvantage these groups in terms of their ability to access timely health care or dental services.

Folic Acid

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what evidence relating to folic acid and cancer risk his Department has published in 2009; and when he expects the Scientific Advisory Committee on Nutrition to publish its final advice on folic acid and cancer risk. [267664]

Dawn Primarolo: The Department has not recently published any new evidence relating to folic acid and cancer risk. An Expert Group comprising members of the Scientific Advisory Committee on Nutrition (SACN), members of the Committee on Carcinogenicity and other invited experts, are currently considering new evidence on temporal trends in colo-rectal cancer incidence in the United States and Canada. Mandatory folic acid fortification was introduced in these countries in 1998. The expert group is currently awaiting results of relevant recently completed and ongoing trials and any further recommendations made by SACN will be considered by UK Health Departments.

General Practitioners: Finance

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many general practitioner practices received the initial incentive payment *(a)* component one and *(b)* component two in 2006-07. [267370]

Mr. Bradshaw: Practice-based commissioning (PBC) incentive schemes are administered locally by primary care trusts. The Department did not routinely monitor receipt by general practitioner (GP) practices of component one or component two of the 2006-07 PBC Directed Enhanced Service scheme.

Data from strategic health authorities show that 8,067 GP practices received an incentive scheme payment in 2006-07. This figure does not discriminate between payments under component one of the nationally negotiated PBC Direct Enhanced Service scheme or a locally agreed alternative that may have been offered. No data have been collected centrally relating to component two payments.

Health Services: Developing Countries

Miss Kirkbride: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what progress his Department has made in implementing the recommendation in Lord Crisp's report on global health partnerships in respect of creating healthcare links between the UK and developing countries; and what projects have been established as a result. [267838]

Dawn Primarolo: The Government gave their response to Lord Crisp's report in March 2008. Since then the Department has been working with the Department for International Development to implement several recommendations from the Crisp report. This includes:

an independent evaluation of healthcare links between the United Kingdom and developing countries, completed in May 2008;

a Links Centre to help signpost, advise and develop healthcare links, operational from May 2009;

a Funding scheme that will provide some £1.25 million per year over three years, also operating from May 2009; and

a Department of Health Framework for International Development. This will provide greater clarity on how individuals, NHS and allied agencies can best maximise their potential through healthcare links with developing countries. We are holding a series of consultation events over the summer for publication in October 2009.

Health Services: Prisons

Mr. Garnier: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent assessment he has made of the adequacy of primary mental healthcare services in *(a)* male local, *(b)* male training and *(c)* female prisons. [267304]

Phil Hope: Since 2006, primary care trusts (PCTs) have commissioned both primary and secondary mental health services in public sector prisons. The provision is based on the health needs of the population served by an individual PCT, based on a health needs assessment, and which should be reviewed annually.

Offender Health, led by the Department, commissioned performance indicators for prison health in 2007. These standards, "Prison Health Performance Indicators", provide reports based on current prison health services, measured against standards used in the wider national health service to promote equivalence of services in custody. These standards were reviewed in 2008 with a strengthening of areas including mental health, and new indicators, "Prison Health Performance and Quality Indicators", were sent to PCTs for completion in March 2009.

"Prison Service Instruction 50/2007" covers the arrangements by which prisoners needing treatment in a secure NHS setting under Sections 47 or 48 of the Mental Health Act 2007 should be transferred from prisons to the NHS.

To support staff in dealing with prisoners with complex mental health problems, £600,000 has been available over three years to the nine regions across England to provide mental health awareness training for prison officers and staff. This funding is available for 2009-10, and will continue to provide staff with training and the skills to better understand and support prisoners with mental health problems in custody.

The standard of services provided in custody is monitored by Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Prisons (HMIP). HMIP undertakes announced and unannounced visits, and reports are written after all visits which are based on the standards identified in the HMIP document "Expectations—Criteria for assessing the conditions in prisons and the treatment of prisoners".

PCTs have a commissioning responsibility for prison health care and are monitored on their commissioning capability by the Healthcare Commission. The HMIP and Healthcare Commission work in collaboration, which is clearly stated in the "Expectations" document.

Health Services: Waiting Lists

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the average waiting time for planned treatment in the NHS was in each region in each year since 1997-98. [267697]

Mr. Bradshaw: The in-patient mean and median waiting times by region since 1997-98 are shown in the document median and mean waiting times by region, which has been placed in the Library.

Hepatitis: Blood Transfusions

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will make it his policy to establish a public inquiry into the transmission of hepatitis C and HIV through blood and blood products; and if he will make a statement. [267049]

Dawn Primarolo: The Government have great sympathy for those affected in this way, and are deeply sorry that this happened as a result of national health service treatment that was given in good faith. However, these events have been the subject of long-concluded legal proceedings, and the Government have established three schemes to provide financial assistance to those affected.

Lord Archer of Sandwell has recently issued the report of his independent inquiry into these issues. I have met with Lord Archer to discuss his report, and will consider his conclusions and recommendations very carefully.

Hospitals: Camden

Frank Dobson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what spending reductions NHS London are seeking from hospitals providing services to people in Camden; and what the proposed timetable for implementation of those reductions is. [268045]

Mr. Bradshaw: Primary care trust (PCT) allocations for 2009 to 2010 and 2010 to 2011 were announced on 8 December. It is for the national health service to decide locally how best to meet the national priorities set out in the 'NHS Operating Framework' including how much funding to make available. It is for PCTs to commission the services they require to meet the health care needs of the local populations and patients they serve taking into account both local and national priorities.

However, the boards of all 31 PCTs in London have agreed in principle to support NHS London's medium term financial strategy, to address long term deficits within some NHS organisations in London. All PCTs, with the exception of those repaying historical deficits, will be contributing on average 0.8 per cent. of their resource baseline in 2009-10 and 0.75 per cent. in 2010-11 as part of the plan.

This is in line with the 2009-10 Operating Framework which states that strategic health authorities (SHAs) may determine and agree arrangements locally with their PCTs for the transfer and lodging of resources with the SHA, provided this is within the overall limits of the SHA planned surplus. SHAs will be accountable for the management of this flexibility. The right hon. Member may therefore wish to raise this directly with London Strategic Health Authority.

London NHS Trusts and NHS Foundation Trusts will not be contributing any of their income towards NHS London's medium term financial plan.

Learning Disability: Health Services

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many local authorities he expects to meet the deadline for the transfer of learning disability commissioning funds from primary care trusts (PCTs) to local authorities; and what procedures will apply when a local authority claims it has received a reduction in funding relative to the PCT budget. [268181]

Phil Hope: Returns have been received from over 70 per cent. of local authorities who either have agreed a figure for the amounts of learning disability social care funding to be transferred from the national health service to local authorities (LAs), for 2009-10 and 2010-11, or they are near that process. Returns are expected from everyone by 31 March.

The return requires the local authority and the primary care trust (PCT) to be in agreement so where there are disagreements then this will be highlighted by the return.

The guidance Valuing People Now: Transfer of the Responsibility for the Commissioning of Social Care for Adults with a Learning Disability from the NHS to Local Government and Transfer of the Appropriate Funding says that PCTs and LAs should come to a view on exactly what sums of money will be transferred to the LA alongside the responsibility for commissioning future services. Where there are issues of concern officials will follow this up with regional colleagues.

Medical Records: Databases

Mrs. Laing: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many *(a)* records and *(b)* data fields there are in (i) the Population Demographics Service, (ii) the Summary Care Record, (iii) the Secondary Uses Service, (iv) the Electronic Prescription Service, (v) the Out of Hours system, (vi) the Picture Archiving and Communications system, (vii) the Radiology Information System, (viii) Choose and Book, (ix) the Detailed Care Record system and (x) the National Childhood Obesity Database. [265743]

Mr. Bradshaw: Comprehensive information on numbers of records is not available. Out of hours, radiology, and most detailed care records systems, are procured and managed locally by primary care trusts and national health Service trusts. Information is not collected centrally on the number of records these systems hold, or on the number of detailed care records held in data centres operated in connection with the national programme for information technology.

In addition, while national activity data are collected and published on an annual basis about imaging and radiodiagnostic examinations and tests, it is not possible to differentiate historic data in terms of those that were stored using picture archiving and communications systems.

For other systems, information as at 13 March 2009, is in the following table.

System/Service	*Records/data items*
Personal Demographics Service	A record for every patient treated by the NHS in England - approximately 70 million records
Summary Care Records	249,000 records
Secondary Uses Service	1.3 billion coded data summaries
Electronic Prescriptions Service	178 million prescription messages
Choose and Book	14.4 million bookings
National Childhood Obesity Database	2.388 million records

Information on data fields could only be obtained at disproportionate cost. Systems involve the use of application software, and in some cases multiple applications, each with its own data model containing potentially thousands of data fields. There is no database function that will count the number of data fields in a database, and to do so would involve a manual process that could take many hours in each case.

NHS: Bank Services

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment he has made of the implications for cancer care of the collapse of Kaupthing, Singer and Friedlander. [267436]

Ann Keen: In general, the large majority of cash balances held by national health service organisations will be in Government Bank accounts with HM Office of the Paymaster General, which all NHS organisations must hold.

Funding for health services is allocated to primary care trusts (PCTs) on the basis of the relative needs of their populations. It is therefore for PCTs in partnership with strategic health authorities to commission their health services, including cancer services.

NHS: Disciplinary Proceedings

Mr. Jenkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many NHS employees of each *(a)* grade and *(b)* length of service have been suspended in the last five years. [268096]

Ann Keen: Information on the number of national health service employees who have been suspended is not collected centrally.

NHS: ICT

Mr. Waterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 23 February 2009, *Official Report*, columns 203-4W, on departmental ICT, on what occasions the exemption referred to has been applied in the NHS IT programme. [267320]

Mr. Bradshaw: The exemption referred to has been relied upon in relation to extensions to the choose and book contract, 'spine' contract, and the current contracts with the programme's local service providers, BT and CSC. The Department has taken appropriate legal advice in all cases.

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the *(a)* initial budget and *(b)* outturn was in respect of (i) revenue and (ii) capital expenditure for (A) the national programme for IT and (B) each element of the national programme for IT in each year since the inception of the programme; and how much (1) capital and (2) revenue funding has been allocated for each remaining year of the programme. [267386]

Mr. Bradshaw: Comprehensive information in the form requested is not available. This is because the overall cost of the national programme for information technology (NPfIT) includes both central costs, and the costs managed by local national health service bodies incurred in implementing the systems, for example in training staff and upgrading computer hardware. Local information is not routinely collected in a way that differentiates expenditure on the information technology (IT) programme from other local IT-related expenditure.

Within the Department, NHS Connecting for Health, which came into being in April 2005, is responsible both for central expenditure necessary for ensuring delivery of the IT systems under the national programme, and for maintaining the critical business systems previously provided to the national health service by the former NHS Information Authority. NHS Connecting for Health does not prepare annual whole-programme budgets for NPfIT activity separate from those for its wider responsibilities as this would involve the unnecessary apportionment of common management, administrative and support costs.

For the same reason, separate outturn figures are not routinely reported for management information purposes.

Information covering all NHS Connecting for Health's responsibilities is shown in the following tables.

£ million

	Initial budget				*Planned expenditure*
	2005-06	*2006-07*	*2007-08*	*2008-09*	*2009-10*
Capital	1,198	1,055	915	917.0	800.0
Revenue	799	638	607	631.3	605.7

£ million

	Actual expenditure				*Forecast outturn*
	2004-05	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*	*2008-09*
Capital	360.0	429.0	589.0	686.0	586.0
Revenue	260.0	539.0	528.0	507.0	616.0

Notes:
1. All sums exclude capital charges.
2. The amounts include the original costs of NPfIT contracts, which have not changed, but also include new and additional requirements that have been added, supported by separate business cases and funding, as reported by the National Audit Office.
3. Planned expenditure figures for years beyond 2009-10 are subject to revision in light of the evolving IT needs of the NHS and to the outcome of future spending reviews.

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what advice he has received on the extent to which contracts under the NHS IT programme may bind subsequent administrations. [267879]

Mr. Bradshaw: National programme for information technology contracts are signed in the name of the Secretary of State for Health, and their terms will therefore be binding for the lifetime of the contract on the holder of that position, irrespective of the administration in office. It would be open to a new administration to consider the acceptability of any contract. Should changes be required there may be an opportunity to amend the contract depending on the scope and type of these changes. Voluntary termination clauses may be used to terminate a contract under the terms set out.

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health when he expects to reach a settlement with Fujitsu over its withdrawal from the NHS IT programme. [267882]

Mr. Bradshaw: Fujitsu did not withdraw from the national programme for information technology. The contract with Fujitsu was terminated by the Department on 28 May 2008 because of failure to meet key contractual milestones and to provide an acceptable remediation plan.

The formal dispute process is continuing. It is not possible at this time to estimate when these matters will be resolved.

NHS: Manpower

Miss Kirkbride: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many people were working in *(a)* patient-facing and *(b)* non patient-facing roles in the NHS on the latest date for which figures are available. [267694]

Ann Keen: The following table gives the total number of people employed in the national health service in patient facing services.

2008

	Number
Total	1,149,276
Professionally qualified clinical staff (excl retainers)	701,324
All doctors	133,662
All doctors (excl retainers)[1]	133,155
Consultants (including Directors of public health)	34,910
Registrars	35,042
Other doctors in training	14,136
Hospital practitioners and clinical assistants (non-dental specialties)[2]	2,761
Other medical and dental staff	11,854
GPs (excl retainers)[3]	37,213
GPs excluding retainers and registrars	34,010
GP Providers	27,347
Other GPs	6,663
GP registrars[4]	3,203
GP retainers	507
Total qualified nursing staff[5]	408,160
Qualified nursing, midwifery and health visiting staff	386,112
GP practice nurses[3, 6]	22,048
Total qualified scientific, therapeutic and technical staff[7]	142,558
Qualified Allied Health Professions	71,301
Other qualified scientific, therapeutic and technical staff	71,257
Qualified ambulance staff[8]	17,451
Support to clinical staff	355,010
Support to doctors and nursing staff	286,254
Support to scientific, therapeutic and technical staff	55,689
Support to ambulance staff	13,067
Other GP practice staff[3]	92,436

The following table gives the total number of people employed by the national health service in non-patient facing roles.

2008

	Number
Total	219,417
Total NHS infrastructure support	219,064
Central functions	105,354
Hotel, property and estates	73,797
Manager and senior manager	39,913
Other non-medical staff or those with unknown classification	353

[1] All doctors excluding GP retainers.

[2] In order to avoid double counting these staff are excluded from the all doctors totals, as they are predominantly GPs that work part time in hospitals (applies to headcount data only).

[3] GP Data as at 1 October 1998-99 and 30 September 2000-08.

[4] GP Registrar count for 2008 represents an improvement in data collection processes and comparisons with previous years should be treated with caution.

[5] Nursing and midwifery figures exclude students on training courses leading to a first qualification as a nurse or midwife.

[6] Headcount practice nurse figures are estimated for 1998 and 1999 based on the 1997 fte to headcount ratio.

[7] To make the census data comparable with the review body for nursing staff and other health professionals definitions, qualified Allied Health Professionals (AHPs) now include speech and language therapists (previously these were included in other qualified ST and T staff). For comparability historical data have been reassigned to match the revised definition. The numbers of AHPs will not match those published in previous years.

[8] In 2006 ambulance staff were collected under new, more detailed, occupation codes. As a result, qualified totals and support to ambulance staff totals are not directly comparable with previous years.

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many full-time equivalent *(a)* doctors and *(b)* nurses worked in accident and emergency departments in England in each year since 1997; and how many such staff worked in each NHS organisation in the most recent period for which figures are available. [267701]

Ann Keen: The number of qualified nurses working in accident and emergency departments in England are not identified separately in the NHS Workforce Census. A table giving the numbers of all Hospital and Community Health Service medical staff within the accident and emergency speciality group, has been placed in the Library.

NHS: Measurement

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what procedures are in place to ensure the accuracy of weighing scales in the NHS. [267377]

Ann Keen: Responsibility for maintenance, calibration and replacement of weighing equipment, along with the provision of suitable and sufficient training in the correct use of the equipment is the responsibility of each national health service organisation.

In autumn 2007, the Department's Estates and Facilities Division published an article in Quarterly Briefing—a magazine produced by the Department aimed at local health care estates managers—raising awareness of a survey being undertaken by local authorities coordinators of regulatory services (LACORS) on weigh scales in acute healthcare premises.

In May 2008, the Department issued an Estates and Facilities Safety Alert to NHS chief executives and board members with responsibility for health and safety in England, to further raise awareness of the LACORS survey and the potential for medication errors to occur through the use of uncalibrated weigh scales.

The guidance in the Alert advised the NHS that where dual readings are possible (i.e. imperial and metric), all readings should be taken in metric to avoid confusion.

Additional advice has since been drafted jointly by the Department and the National Patient Safety Agency (NPSA) for the NHS, following the publication of an interim report by LACORS, and is due to be published by the NPSA in the near future.

NHS: Pensions

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate he has made of *(a)* the number of NHS employees and former employees who will have their NHS occupational pension entitlement amended in the next 12 months and *(b)* the greatest reduction in entitlement which will be made for such a person; and what proportion of such adjustments he expects will have been determined by the commencement of the 2009-10 tax year. [267885]

Ann Keen: For active members of the NHS Pension Scheme, their pension on retirement is based on their final salary at retirement and their accrued pensionable service. Service cannot be reduced. For deferred members of the NHS Pension Scheme (former employees), who have not yet taken their pension, their pension entitlement is based on their final salary linked to the retail prices index and pensionable service at the time of leaving. Their pension entitlements will not reduce. For NHS pensioners, latest figures are that 54,079 have been told their pensions will be adjusted in April as a result of the double payment of the uplift of the guaranteed minimum pension element of the NHS pension. Of these the greatest reduction in pension is £3,070.34, a reduction of 9 per cent., and we expect around 91 per cent. of adjustments to have been determined by the start of the 2009-10 tax year. Of the remaining cases requiring adjustment we do not expect all to result in a reduction in pension.

NHS: Temporary Employment

Mr. Burstow: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent estimate he has made of the cost to NHS organisations of the change in treatment of value added tax for agency staff; and if he will make a statement. [267231]

Ann Keen: The latest estimate of the potential cost to the national health service is £26 million per year, revised from an earlier estimate of £30 million when VAT stood at 17.5 per cent.

Patient Advice and Liaison Services: Manpower

Dr. Richard Taylor: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many full-time equivalent staff are employed in the patient advice and liaison services of each NHS *(a)* hospital trust and *(b)* foundation hospital trust. [267946]

Ann Keen: This information is not collected centrally.

Pregnancy: Dietary Supplements

Mr. Burrowes: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much was spent on vitamin D supplements for *(a)* children aged between six months and four years and *(b)* pregnant and breastfeeding women in 2008-09. [267392]

Dawn Primarolo: Vitamin supplements, which include vitamin D, are provided free to Healthy Start beneficiaries. In the first three quarters of 2008-09 the cost of supplements provided through the scheme was in the region of £20,000. Data for the final quarter are not yet available. Vitamins can also be prescribed by general practitioners, and national health service prescriptions are free for pregnant women, new mothers and all children. Data as to the numbers and cost of supplements containing vitamin D prescribed in this way are not collected centrally.

Mr. Burrowes: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent estimate he has made of the cost of providing vitamin D supplements to all *(a)* pregnant and breastfeeding women and *(b)* young children between the ages of six months and four years. [267488]

Dawn Primarolo: Vitamin supplements containing vitamin D are available to beneficiaries of the Healthy Start Scheme. We have estimated that the annual cost of providing these vitamins universally across England would be as follows: £24 million for children from age six months until the fourth birthday and £4 million for women from 10 weeks of pregnancy until baby is one-year-old.

Prescriptions: Fees and Charges

Mrs. Dean: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) whether rheumatoid arthritis is considered to be a long-term condition for the purposes of the review of prescription charges led by Sir Ian Gilmore; and if he will take steps to exempt patients diagnosed with that condition from prescription charges; [267570]

(2) whether systemic lupus erythematosus is considered to be a long-term condition for the purposes of the review of prescription charges led by Sir Ian Gilmore; and if he will take steps to exempt patients diagnosed with that condition from prescription charges. [267573]

Dawn Primarolo: We have asked the president of the Royal College of Physicians (Professor Ian Gilmore) to carry out a review that will consider how to implement the commitment to exempt patients with long-term conditions from prescription charges. The review is in progress and is due to make its recommendations to departmental Ministers in summer 2009. The review is engaging widely with stakeholders to seek the views of patients, the public, patient representative bodies, clinicians and health care organisations.

Mrs. Dean: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) if he will estimate the number of patients with rheumatoid arthritis who were *(a)* exempt from and *(b)* unable to pay prescription charges in the last five years; [267571]

(2) if he will estimate the number of patients diagnosed with systemic lupus erythematosus who were *(a)* exempt from and *(b)* unable to pay prescription charges in the last five years. [267574]

Dawn Primarolo: The Department does not hold the information to answer these questions. Data are not held on the number of people with a particular medical condition, prescribed or dispensed a particular medication or the purpose for which the medication was prescribed.

Mrs. Riordan: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate he has made of *(a)* the number of people with cancer who will be exempted from prescription charges from April 2009 and *(b)* the cost to the NHS of exempting cancer patients from prescription charges in the 12-month period from April 2009. [267083]

Dawn Primarolo: Up to 150,000 patients already diagnosed with cancer are expected to benefit from exemption from prescription charges. The expected reduction in prescription charge income as a result of the exemption for cancer patients is estimated to be around £15 million per year.

Pressure Sores

Anne Milton: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) how many recorded cases of pressure sores there were in each of the last five years; [268016]

(2) what estimate he has made of the number of people who received treatment for *(a)* pressure sores and *(b)* infected pressure sores which developed during a hospital stay in each of the last five years. [268017]

Ann Keen: This information is not collected centrally and no estimate has been made.

Respite Care: Finance

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 11 December 2008, *Official Report*, column 237W, on respite care, what percentage of the £150 million each primary care trust will receive, according to the weighted capitation formula. [267385]

Phil Hope: The £150 million is part of overall primary care trust (PCT) revenue allocations. The 2008-09 PCT allocations represent a £74.2 billion investment in the national health service, which is increasing by a further £8.6 billion over 2009-10 and 2010-11. These overall allocations are not broken down into funding for individual policies by PCT. There is not a weighted capitation formula specific to respite care that would allow needs to be accurately identified at the local level. Rather it is for PCTs to decide their priorities for investment locally, taking into account both local priorities and the NHS operating framework.

Sight Impaired: North West

Mr. Gordon Prentice: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many blind people there are in the constituencies of *(a)* Pendle, *(b)* Burnley, *(c)* Ribble Valley, *(d)* Blackburn, *(e)* Hyndburn and *(g)* Rossendale and Darwen. [266809]

Phil Hope: Data on the number of blind people are not collected centrally by constituency, but are available for councils with adult social services responsibilities and government office regions. The register is voluntary and so cannot be thought of as providing a definitive measure.

The constituencies of Pendle, Burnley, Ribble Valley, Hyndburn and Rossendale all fall within the boundaries of Lancashire county council. The other two constituencies requested, Blackburn and Darwen, fall within the boundaries of Blackburn with Darwen borough council.

The number of people registered as blind, as at 31 March 2008, was 3,540 in Lancashire county council and 530 in Blackburn in Darwen borough council.

Surgery: Overseas Residence

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many overseas residents who have received transplants since 1997 were NHS entitled patients. [267433]

Ann Keen: Secretary of State Directions on the allocation of organs from deceased donors place patients into two categories—Group 1 and Group 2. A person in Group 2 cannot receive an organ if there is a clinically suitable person in Group 1. Group 1 includes persons ordinarily resident in the United Kingdom who qualify for national health service treatment under the NHS Act and must be treated the same as UK nationals resident in the in the UK, persons entitled under reciprocal health agreements to medical treatment in the UK, and persons entitled under bilateral reciprocal health agreements. Over the period April 1998 to March 2008, 315 people recorded as resident outside the UK (excluding the Republic of Ireland) and categorised as in Group 1 had transplants, 301 from deceased donors and 14 from living donors.

Thalidomide: Health Services

Mr. Willis: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many NHS trusts in England are able to measure the blood pressure of a four limb deficient individual experiencing the negative health effects of thalidomide use. [267690]

Dawn Primarolo *[holding answer 30 March 2009]*: This information is not collected.

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

Special Envoy to the Middle East

11. **Norman Baker:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent representations he has received on the performance of the Quartet's Special Envoy to the Middle East. [267605]

Bill Rammell: While we have not received formal representations, we judge that the Quartet Representative and his office continue to make a very valuable contribution to improving the situation on the ground and to helping to realise our common vision of two states, Israel and Palestine, living in peace, prosperity and security side by side.

G20

12. **Mr. Hands:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what his latest estimate is of the cost of hosting the G20 London summit. [267607]

Caroline Flint: The total costs for hosting the London summit are currently estimated at £21 million which includes £7.2 million for policing.

This figure is £2 million greater than the figure given in the answers of 17 March 2009, *Official Report*, column 1002W, and 18 March 2009, *Official Report*, column 1186-87W. The increase is due to an additional £1.75 million for changes in the build design of the venue, and £250,000 for tented immigration at airports to allow delegations through border control quickly. These amounts were not included in the previous estimate.

Standard public sector procurement procedures have been followed in arranging the event to ensure value for money and the costs will be found within existing departmental and police budgets.

13. **Paddy Tipping:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent discussions he has had with his EU counterparts on the agenda for the forthcoming G20 summit. [267608]

Caroline Flint: My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary met counterparts at the Informal and Spring European Councils on 1 and 20 March 2009, and at the General Affairs and External Relations Council on 22 March 2009. Separately, he spoke with his Polish colleague Radoslav Sikorksi and French Foreign Minister Bernard Kouchner. I have also discussed the summit with my EU counterparts in Hungary, Sweden, France and Germany.

EU-US Relations

14. **Derek Twigg:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent discussions he has had with his EU counterparts on priorities for the forthcoming EU-US summit. [267609]

Caroline Flint: In preparing for the summit, EU-Transatlantic relations have most recently been discussed at the General Affairs and External Relations Council on 16 March 2009 and at the Gymnich, 27-28 March 2009.

16. **Ms Keeble:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what steps his Department is taking to encourage partnership between the EU and the new US administration. [267611]

Caroline Flint: Since November 2008, the Government have had regular discussions with our EU partners on how to engage constructively with the new US administration.

General Affairs Council

17. **Mr. Marsden:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what discussions he had in the most recent General Affairs Council on the contribution of the European Council's European Economic Recovery Plan to employment in the environmental sector. [267612]

Caroline Flint: On 16 March 2009, I attended the General Affairs and External Relations Council which discussed the proposal to invest €5 billion including on a number of carbon capture and storage and energy interconnection projects, ahead of final agreement at the spring European Council. This investment will help boost green jobs and lock-in low carbon infrastructure.

21. **Phil Wilson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what discussions he has had in the most recent General Affairs Council on EU policy on carbon capture and storage technology. [267617]

Caroline Flint: On 16 March 2009 I attended the General Affairs Council, which, among other items, discussed proposals to invest €1 billion on Carbon Capture and Storage (CCS) projects as part of the European Recovery Plan. This prepared the agreement reached at Spring European Council on 19 to 20 March 2009. Under this agreement €180 million will be available for four CCS projects proposed in the UK.

US-Iran Relations

18. **Mr. Mackay:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent assessment he has made of the implications of US-Iranian relations for UK foreign policy. [267613]

Bill Rammell: I fully support President Obama's recent message to the people and Government of Iran and welcome his commitment to direct engagement and a relationship based on mutual respect if Iran is willing to do the same. I believe that this offers a real opportunity for Iran to work constructively with the international community to restore confidence in its nuclear intentions and to contribute to peace and stability across the middle east. I also believe that that would offer a solid basis for the UK and Iran to resolve our bilateral differences. I urge Iran's leaders to respond positively to the opportunity before them.

Afghanistan

19. **Mr. Andrew Turner:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent assessment he has made of the political situation in Afghanistan; and if he will make a statement. [267615]

20. **Mr. Heald:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent assessment he has made of the political situation in Afghanistan; and if he will make a statement. [267616]

Bill Rammell: Afghanistan remains one of the UK's top foreign policy priorities. The key political focus for Afghanistan in 2009 is the Presidential and Provincial Council elections which will take place on 20 August. We are actively working in support of the Afghans, the UN and the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation's International Security Assistance Force to help ensure these elections are successful. Voter registration has been successfully completed with over three million names added to the existing register.

The Balkans

22. **Daniel Kawczynski:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent assessment he has made of the political situation in the Balkans. [267618]

Caroline Flint: All countries in the Western Balkans remain committed to the goal of EU membership and to the process of political and economic reform required within the framework of the EU's Stabilisation and Association Process. The UK and its EU partners welcome this continuing commitment and remain actively engaged in support of this process, which is essential for the stability and prosperity of the region.

Sri Lanka

23. **Siobhain McDonagh:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent assessment he has made of the political situation in Sri Lanka. [267619]

Bill Rammell: We have become increasingly concerned about the humanitarian situation in northern Sri Lanka, particularly the fate of the many civilians caught in the conflict area. We have made repeated calls for both sides to agree an urgent humanitarian ceasefire to allow civilians to leave the conflict area safely and for increased humanitarian supplies to be brought in. Lasting peace can only come about through a political solution that fully takes into account the legitimate concerns of all communities in Sri Lanka.

Afghanistan: Peacekeeping Operations

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what discussions have been held with the US administration on *(a)* combating the Taliban and *(b)* troop levels in Afghanistan since January 2009. [267077]

Bill Rammell: The UK has regular discussions with the US administration on these issues at all levels of Government, including frequent high-level meetings. My right hon. Friends the Prime Minister, the Foreign Secretary and the Defence Secretary all discussed Afghanistan during their recent visits to Washington on 1-3 March 2009, 18 and 17 March 2009 respectively.

Afghanistan: Politics and Government

Mr. Bone: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent assessment he has made of the political situation in Afghanistan; and if he will make a statement. [267771]

Bill Rammell: Afghanistan remains one of the UK's top foreign policy priorities. The key political focus for Afghanistan in 2009 is the Presidential and Provincial Council elections which will take place on 20 August 2009. We are actively working in support of the Afghans, the UN and the International Security Assistance Force to help ensure these elections are successful. Voter registration has been successfully completed with over three million names added to the existing register.

Arms Trade: Exports

Mr. Moore: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the Answer of 12 January 2009, *Official Report*, column 354W, on arms trade: exports, what assessment he has made of the compliance of UK legislation with the operational requirements of the EU Common Position on defining common rules governing the control of exports of military technology and equipment as set out in Articles 4, 5, 6, 8, 10, 12 and 13; and if he will make a statement. [258643]

Bill Rammell: The UK is in a position to implement the Common Position, and will not require any change to UK Legislation to comply with its operational requirements. However, the Statutory Guidance contained within the Export Control Act 2002 still refers to the language in the Consolidated EU and National Arms Export Licensing Criteria. Statutory Guidance is currently being amended to reflect the adoption of the Common Position.

Bahrain: Human Rights

Mr. Purchase: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent reports he has received on the human rights situation in Bahrain; and if he will make a statement. [267973]

Bill Rammell: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office receives reporting on the human rights situation in Bahrain from a range of non-governmental organisations and interested parties including the Bahrain Centre for Human Rights and the Bahrain Society. An example of this would be the report of Bahrain's Universal Periodic Review by the UN Human Rights Office which is available online at:

http://www.ohchr.org/EN/HRBodies/UPR/Pages/bhsessionl.aspx

Our embassy in Bahrain engages with human rights organisations, such as article 19, and regularly reports on the human rights situation.

Belarus

Mrs. Curtis-Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the answer of 23 March 2009, *Official Report*, column 21W, whether the President of Belarus will be invited to attend the Eastern Partnership summit in May. [267443]

Caroline Flint: The issue of whether to invite President Lukashenko to the Eastern Partnership summit in May 2009 has not yet been decided. EU member states will be discussing this issue shortly.

Bosnia and Herzegovina: Politics and Government

Mrs. Curtis-Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent assessment he has made of the political situation in Bosnia and Herzegovina; and what recent discussions on the matter have taken place at EU level. [266824]

Caroline Flint: The Government remain concerned about the current situation in Bosnia and Herzegovina (BiH) and endorse the conclusions of the Peace Implementation Council (PIC) Steering Board meeting on 25/26 March 2009. Despite some progress in addressing the conditionality for closure of the Office of the High Representative (OHR), the PIC Steering Board expressed concern about political developments in BiH since it last convened in November 2008. I will place a copy of the PIC communiqué in the House Library.

The current political situation in Bosnia and Herzegovina was discussed by EU Foreign Ministers at the General Affairs and External Relations Council on 16 March 2009, which called upon BiH political leaders to engage with stronger determination on the reform agenda and to refrain from nationalist rhetoric. I will place a copy of the relevant General Affairs and External Relations Council conclusions in the House Library.

EU Foreign Ministers also discussed BiH, as part of a broader discussion of the western Balkans, at their informal Gymnich meeting on 28 March 2009.

British Council: Finance

Mr. Paul Goodman: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the Answer of 13 March 2009, *Official Report*, column 778W, on British Council: finance, if he will publish details of the professional evaluation in place to monitor the British Council's Reconnect Programme. [267425]

Caroline Flint *[holding answer 27 March 2009]:* The British Council's Reconnect programme will be evaluated according to its ongoing monitoring and evaluation processes. The outcome of the British Council's programme and project evaluation is aggregated and published in the organisation's annual report.

Conflict Prevention

Mr. Moore: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the written ministerial statement of 25 March 2009, *Official Report*, columns 17-19WS, on conflict resources 2009-10, what the Government's expenditure on conflict resources in financial year 2008-09 was; and what proportion of this total was spent through the *(a)* Conflict Prevention Pool, *(b)* Stabilisation Aid Fund and *(c)* Treasury Reserve for Peacekeeping. [267720]

Bill Rammell: The UK's total conflict resource envelope for 2008-09 (leaving aside the cost of UK military operations in Afghanistan and Iraq) was set at the time of the Comprehensive Spending Review (CSR) at £559 million: £112 million Conflict Prevention Pool; £73 million Stabilisation Aid Fund; £374 million Peacekeeping Budget (PKB)—although the PKB is an annual draw on the Treasury Reserve rather than part of the CSR settlement).

Mr. Moore: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the written ministerial statement of 25 March 2009, *Official Report*, columns 17-19WS, on conflict resources 2009-10, what changes have been made to the funding for thematic programmes; what proportion of this funding will be allocated to *(a)* security sector reform advisory, *(b)* peacekeeping training, *(c)* defence education in priority countries and *(d)* the United Nations' Rule of Law Unit; and if he will make a statement. [267729]

Bill Rammell: The Strategic Support to International Organisations Programme (SSIO) will merge the existing Conflict Prevention Pool International Capacity Building and Security and Small Arms Control Programmes. Of the total £6.5 million allocated to SSIO *(a)* £1,883,000 (28.9 per cent.) has been allocated to security sector reform advisory, *(b)* £950,000 (14.6 per cent.) has been allocated to UK peacekeeping training, *(c)* £1,000,000 (15.3 per cent.) for defence education, and *(d)* £100,000 (1.5 per cent.) to the UN's Rule of Law Unit from of a total £2,069,000 (31.8 per cent.) of support to the UN Secretariat. Additionally there is an element of £408,000 (6.2 per cent.) for support to strategic secondments to international organisations and a contingency element of £190,000 (2.9 per cent.).

Departmental Public Appointments

Julia Goldsworthy: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs which former *(a)* Members of the House of Lords and *(b)* hon. Members who have left Parliament since 1997 have been appointed to public bodies for which his Department is responsible; and who made each such appointment. [267853]

Gillian Merron: None.

EU Countries: Overseas Residence

Gordon Banks: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment he has made of the adequacy of consular and other support provided to British citizens who are detained in other EU jurisdictions. [267606]

Caroline Flint: Consular staff provide assistance to British nationals detained overseas, including within the EU. Our role is primarily one of welfare. We aim to contact British nationals within 24 hours of hearing of their detention. If they wish us to, consular staff will also visit them as soon as possible. We are always ready to look at ways we might improve the service we provide still further and welcome feedback.

Falkland Islands: Fisheries

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how much revenue has been derived from the sale of fishing licences in the Falkland Islands in the last five years. [266949]

Gillian Merron: The responsibility for the sale of fishing licences lies with the Falkland Islands Government. The Falkland Islands Government fisheries department supplied the following figures:

Financial year	*£ million*
2003-04	11.9
2004-05	10.2
2005-06	13.6
2006-07	15.5
2007-08	14.2

Figures for the year ending 30 June 2009 have yet to be finalised.

Falkland Islands: Natural Resources

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent progress has been made in oil exploration and hydrocarbon development in the Falkland Islands. [266948]

Gillian Merron: The Falkland Islands Government are entitled to develop their hydrocarbon resources within their exclusive economic zone (EEZ) and the Government continue to support this. The Government last year approved the Falkland Islands Government's request to resume Open Door licensing for offshore oil exploration and production in five blocks. Companies have completed 2D, 3D and, in some cases Controlled Source Electro Magnetic surveys in preparation for drilling exploration wells. They have also conducted environmental surveys to assist with the preparation of environmental impact assessments that require approval before exploratory drilling consent is given.

Germany: Anti-Semitism

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what reports he has received of incidents of anti-Semitism in Germany since December 2008; and if he will make a statement. [266993]

Caroline Flint: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office has not received any official reports of anti-Semitism in Germany since December 2008.

G20

Mr. Hands: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs which of his overseas counterparts has *(a)* accepted, *(b)* declined and *(c)* not yet reported to reply to an invitation to attend the G20 Summit. [265863]

Bill Rammell: At present, I expect all of my right hon. Friend the Prime Minister's counterparts who have been invited to the London G20 summit to attend events on the 1 and 2 of April 2009.

Hezbollah

Mrs. Ellman: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what criteria the Government use to distinguish between Hezbollah's political and military wings. [268154]

Bill Rammell: The Government distinguish between those parts of Hezbollah which are legitimately involved in Lebanese politics and those who are actively concerned in terrorism.

Since July 2008 the "military wing of Hezbollah, including the Jihad council and all units reporting to it (including the Hezbollah external security organisation)" has been proscribed as being concerned in terrorism, as set out in the Terrorism Act 2000 (Proscribed Organisations) (Amendment) (No.2) Order 2008.

Iraq: Peacekeeping Operations

Mr. Leigh: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent discussions he has had with his US counterpart on policy on withdrawal of coalition forces from Iraq. [267614]

Bill Rammell: The draw-down of UK combat troops from Iraq will begin on 31 May 2009, and will be completed by 31 July. The draw-down, which has been agreed with the Iraqi Government, represents a fundamental change of mission as we move to a normal bilateral defence assistance relationship.

From 31 July 2009 we will retain up to 400 troops focused on training and mentoring their Iraqi counterparts.

The US has its own plans, as do other Coalition allies.

Kosovo: Politics and Government

Mrs. Curtis-Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent discussions he has had with his EU counterparts on a lasting resolution of the political status of Kosovo. [266721]

Caroline Flint: 56 states have now recognised Kosovo as an independent sovereign state, including the UK and 21 other EU member states. Discussions in the EU around the time of independence concluded that the decision to recognise Kosovo's independence is one for individual states to make, not the EU as a whole. Therefore, there have been no recent discussions on Kosovo's political status.

Mrs. Curtis-Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs when he expects Operation EULEX to reach full operational capacity. [266815]

Caroline Flint: The European Union Rule of Law Mission in Kosovo (EULEX) has been increasing its presence across Kosovo since reaching initial operation capability on 9 December 2008. The head of mission, General Yves de Kermabon, aims to achieve full operational capability, the point at which EULEX is fully carrying out its mandate, in the coming weeks.

Mrs. Curtis-Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will make an assessment of public perceptions of Operation EULEX held by residents of Kosovo. [266823]

Caroline Flint: The European Union Rule of Law Mission in Kosovo (EULEX) deployed in Kosovo in December 2008 at the invitation of the Government of Kosovo and with their full support. We assess that most Kosovo residents support EULEX and its mandate to strengthen the rule of law in Kosovo. However, there is not yet any detailed independent evidence on public perceptions of the mission. The Government support EULEX in the full implementation of its mandate, including its engagement with all communities throughout Kosovo.

Madagascar: Politics and Government

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent steps the Government has taken to monitor the political situation in Madagascar. [266092]

Gillian Merron: Our high commission in Port Luis, which covers Madagascar and the British Interests Section and Honorary Consul in Antananarivo, have provided frequent reporting on the political situation since the current crisis intensified at the end of January 2009. Our officers from the high commission in Port Louis have also travelled to Madagascar periodically during the crisis.

Our officials in London, Mauritius and Madagascar have been in regular contact with international community contacts such as the EU, US and other diplomatic contacts in Madagascar and capitals.

On 14 March 2009, my noble Friend, the right hon. Lord Malloch-Brown, the Minister for Africa, Asia and the UN, telephoned Jean Ping, chairperson of the commission of the African Union (AU) to discuss the latest developments and the AU's assessment of the situation. He also spoke to a number of senior African leaders at the London summit Africa outreach event on 16 March 2009.

Middle East: Armed Conflict

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what steps the Government has taken towards maintaining peace in Gaza since Christmas 2008. [267220]

Bill Rammell: We are working closely with the EU, US and regional partners to establish how best to maintain the ceasefire in Gaza.

UN Security Council Resolution 1860, initiated by the UK, highlights the international community's clear and unequivocal call for a durable ceasefire in Gaza, and for the unimpeded provision and distribution of humanitarian supplies to the people of Gaza. It also calls for action to make a ceasefire effective and sustainable, including stopping arms trafficking into Gaza and opening the crossings into Gaza.

The UK has pledged approximately £50 million to help towards alleviating the humanitarian situation in Gaza and we continue to urge the Israeli Government to ease border controls and permit the flow of essential supplies.

We have also taken a proactive approach to help prevent the smuggling of arms, ammunition and weapons components to armed groups in Gaza—along with opening the crossings to legitimate goods. The London conference on 13 March 2009 built on the progress made in Copenhagen on 3-5 February 2009 and agreed a programme of action between the nine participating countries (Canada, Denmark, France, Germany, Italy, Netherlands, Norway, the UK, and the US). A copy of the programme of action is available for viewing online at:

http://www.fco.gov.uk/en/newsroom/latest-news/?view=News&id=14977034

Morocco: EU External Trade

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will have discussions with his EU counterparts on steps to clarify the borders of Morocco for the purpose of trade between Morocco and the EU. [267657]

Bill Rammell *[holding answer 30 March 2009]*: The Government currently have no plans to discuss the borders of Morocco with their EU counterparts.

Our officials are in regular discussion with EU colleagues about a range of issues relating to Morocco. Trade is an important element of the UK's bilateral relationship with Morocco, and plays a significant part in the EU's co-operation with Morocco.

The issue of Western Sahara remains part of the political dialogue between the EU and Morocco, which will be discussed at the next Association Council later this year. The Government regard the status of Western Sahara as undetermined pending UN efforts to broker a negotiated solution providing for the self-determination of the people of Western Sahara.

Naser Al-Shaer

Richard Burden: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what reports he has received on the arrest of former Deputy Prime Minister Naser Al-Shaer and other Palestinian parliamentarians in the West Bank; and if he will make a statement. [266646]

Bill Rammell: We are aware of reports on the arrest of Deputy Prime Minister Naser Al-Shaer and other Palestinian parliamentarians in the West Bank. However, we along with the international community want to see a lasting political solution to the conflict between the Israelis and Palestinians. We do not think that arresting the Hamas political leadership in the West Bank is a positive step.

North Korea

Mr. Hands: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what discussions he has had with HM Ambassador to the Democratic People's Republic of Korea on his comments on the recent elections in that country published on the Department's blog platform. [265855]

Bill Rammell: My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary has not discussed the blog entry with our ambassador in Pyongyang. Our ambassador has himself made clear that North Korea

> "is not an idyllic country and that the policies of the government—including a worrying nuclear programme, provocative military confrontation with the South, and a brutal human rights record—have resulted in deep economic stagnation and have isolated the country from the rest of the world".

Our ambassador is well aware of the serious human rights concerns we have with North Korea, and raises these regularly with senior North Korean officials.

Overseas Territories Consultative Council

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the answer of 12 March 2009, *Official Report*, columns 626-27W, on economic situation, what expenditure was incurred under what budgetary headings his Department incurred on its Overseas Territories Consultative Council held on 28 and 29 October 2008. [268104]

Gillian Merron: The overall cost of the Overseas Territories Consultative Council held on 28 and 29 October 2008 was £31,688.61 which breaks down as follows:

	£
Conference facilities, including a formal lunch and evening reception	15,869.16
Accommodation	10,414.10
Transport	5,040.51
Miscellaneous items	364.84

All charges were funded by the Overseas Territories Programme Fund, which is administered by the Overseas Territories Directorate other than the cost of the evening reception which was funded by the Government Hospitality fund which is administered by Protocol Directorate of the Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

Performing Arts

John Mason: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether his Department has engaged any *(a)* actors, *(b)* musicians and *(c)* other performers to support its initiatives over the last five years. [264056]

Gillian Merron: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) has used actors to support a range of training, recruitment and assessment initiatives. It is possible that musicians and performers have been used more widely in the FCO in the last five years, for example as part of specific public diplomacy efforts overseas. Detailed information about their use is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Special Envoy for Conflict Resolution

Pete Wishart: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs which non-governmental organisations the Prime Minister's Special Representative for Conflict Resolution Mechanisms has met since his appointment; and what issues were raised. [250385]

Bill Rammell: The right hon. Jack McConnell MSP, the Prime Minister's Special Representative for Conflict Resolution Mechanisms, meets a range of governments, regional organisations and international institutions to promote dialogue on my right hon. Friend the Prime Minister's initiative to improve the international mechanisms for conflict resolution. Meetings with non-governmental organisations are built into his programme when he visits the United Nations and others.

Pete Wishart: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs which countries the Prime Minister's Special Envoy for Conflict Resolution has visited in his official role since his appointment; and what the costs of these visits were. [250386]

Bill Rammell: The right hon. Jack McConnell, Member of the Scottish Parliament (MSP), my right hon. Friend the Prime Minister's Special Representative for Conflict Resolution Mechanisms, has travelled to Brussels, New York and Cyprus (to take part in Exercise Joint Venture 08). The Ministry of Defence met the costs of the Cyprus visit. The estimated costs of the other two visits is £4,700.

Pete Wishart: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what administrative support the Government provides for the Prime Minister's Special Envoy for Conflict Resolution; and what the cost has been of providing this support. [250387]

Bill Rammell *[holding answer 22 January 2009]*: Administrative support for right hon. Jack McConnell MSP, the Prime Minister's Special Representative for Conflict Resolution Mechanisms, is currently provided by the Foreign and Commonwealth Office from within existing resources.

Sri Lanka: Armed Conflict

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent steps the Government have taken towards securing peace in Sri Lanka. [267219]

Bill Rammell: I refer my hon. Friend to my response of 12 March 2009, *Official Report*, column 631W.

We continue to raise the urgent need for a political solution with the Government of Sri Lanka. Since my right hon. Friend the Prime Minister wrote to President Rajapakse in January 2009, my right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary has spoken to the Sri Lankan President and the Sri Lankan Minister for Foreign Affairs. My noble friend the right hon. Lord Malloch-Brown, the Minister for Africa, Asia and the UN, has also had regular telephone contact with the Sri Lankan Foreign Minister, most recently on 16 March 2009, when they discussed the political and humanitarian situation. Our High Commission in Colombo conveys our concerns to the government of Sri Lanka at every opportunity.

Sri Lanka: Foreign Relations

Mr. Burstow: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs when he expects the Prime Minister's special envoy to Sri Lanka to take up his post; and if he will make a statement. [263416]

Bill Rammell: On 12 February 2009, my right hon. Friend the Prime Minister announced the appointment of the right hon. Des Browne MP as his Special Envoy for Sri Lanka. The appointment is a measure of the UK's continuing commitment to Sri Lanka. The Sri Lankan government are yet to accept the appointment, but we remain in ongoing discussions with them on the issue.

Sri Lanka: Politics and Government

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent steps the Government has taken to monitor the political situation in Sri Lanka. [266095]

Bill Rammell: I refer my hon. Friend to my response of 5 March 2009, *Official Report*, column 1750W.

Our high commission in Colombo continues to monitor the political situation in Sri Lanka closely, maintaining contact with major players. We regularly discuss the situation in Sri Lanka with international partners as well as the Government of Sri Lanka. Most recently my noble Friend, the right hon. Lord Malloch-Brown, the Minister for Africa, Asia and the UN, spoke to the Sri Lankan Minister for Foreign Affairs on 16 March 2009 about the political and humanitarian situation. Our view remains that a political solution that addresses the legitimate concerns of all communities in Sri Lanka is the only way to bring a sustainable end to the conflict.

Sudan: Politics and Government

Mr. Vara: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent discussions he has had with the Chinese government on the political situation in Darfur. [263546]

Bill Rammell: My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary met with the Chinese Foreign Secretary Yang Jiechi on 1 February 2009. They discussed the situation in Darfur including the possibility of the International Criminal Court imminently indicting President Bashir for war crimes.

My noble Friend, the right hon. Lord Malloch-Brown, the Minister for Africa, Asia and the UN, discussed the issue with Chinese Assistant Minister for Africa Zhai Jun in Beijing on 20 February 2009.

My right hon. Friend the Prime Minister has recently written to Premier Wen expressing his concern over the humanitarian impact of the government of Sudan's decision to expel 13 international humanitarian non-governmental organisations and this is an issue we will continue to discuss with the government of China.

Syrian Arab Republic: Tourism

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many tourists have visited Syria from the United Kingdom in each of the last five years for which records are available. [267094]

Bill Rammell: The Government does not hold statistics of UK tourists visiting Syria.

Western Sahara: Fisheries

Ms Katy Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the answer of 10 March 2009, *Official Report*, column 228W, on Western Sahara: fisheries, if he will make it his policy to seek the inclusion of a reference to Western Sahara in any future fisheries agreement between the EU and Morocco. [267945]

Bill Rammell: The current EU-Morocco Fisheries Partnership Association (FPA) came into force on 28 February 2007 and runs for four years. Any future negotiations on the expiry of the FPA will take into account any changes in the current situation of Western Sahara that may occur over that time.

Western Sahara: Human Rights

Joan Walley: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will make it his policy to seek the inclusion of a human rights monitoring role in the mandate for the United Nations Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara upon its renewal. [268195]

Bill Rammell: I refer the hon. Member to my answer of 4 March 2009, *Official Report*, column 1598W.

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Departmental Plants

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how much was spent by his Department on flowers in the last 12 months. [266288]

Mr. Thomas: This information can be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Overseas Aid: Forestry

Martin Horwood: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how much his Department spent on overseas development assistance in respect of forestry research in *(a)* each year since 1999 and *(b)* 2009 on the latest date for which figures ~~are available~~, broken down by expenditure type. [266740]

Mr. Thomas: Forestry research is an important part of the Department for International Development's (DFID) new Research Strategy. DFID supports it through the Centre for International Forestry Research (CIFOR) and the International Centre for Research on Agroforestry (ICRAF) programmes (valued at £1.26 million per annum). DFID also contributes to forestry research through direct core support to the existing African sub-regional research organisations in east, central and west Africa. Details of DFID's contributions since 1999 are detailed in the following table:

DFID's contribution 1999-2000 to 2008-09

£

Financial year	Centre for International Forestry Research	Forestry Research Programme	International Centre for Research in Agroforestry	Total
2008-09	[1]630,000		[1]630,000	[1]1,260,000
2007-08	[1]630,000		[1]630,000	[1]1,260,000
2006-07	[1]630,000		[1]630,000	[1]1,260,000
2005-06	[1]600,000	[2]2,301,057	[1]600,000	[1]1,200,000 [2]2,301,057
2004-05	[2]200,000 [1]400,000	[2]2,200,000	[2]200,000 [1]400,000	[1]800,000 [2]3,000,000
2003-04	[1]411,195	[2]2,426,283	[1]400,000	[1][2]3,237,478
2002-03	[1]361,002	[2]2,920,000	[1]375,000	[1][2]3,656,002
2001-02	[1]395,000	[2]2,920,000	[1]360,667	[1][2]3,675,667
2000-01	[1]362,000	[2]2,920,000	[1]391,696	[1][2]3,673,696
1999-00	n/a	[2]3,223,250	n/a	[2]3,223,250

Total for all years = £29,170,151

n/a = not available

[1] Core

[2] Project

Further information on DFID's research strategy is available on the DFID website:

http://www.dfid.gov.uk/research/newresearch.asp

Sierra Leone: Overseas Aid

Mrs. Curtis-Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how much of the proposed £30 million United Nations Peacebuilding Fund is planned to be allocated to Sierra Leone in each of the next three years; on what projects this money will be used; how the funding will be used to assist communities in Sierra Leone to recover from conflict; and if he will make a statement. [268047]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: On 1 March 2007, the Secretary-General of the United Nations formally announced that an allocation of US$35 million from the Peacebuilding Fund (PBF) had been made for Sierra Leone. The Priority Action Plan, agreed with the government of Sierra Leone, identified the following five priority areas for the PBF: Youth Empowerment and Employment, Democracy and Good Governance, Justice and Security, Support to Increased Energy Capacity and Building of Public Administration.

There have now been two project approval rounds undertaken by the in-country Steering Committee. The first in July 2007 which saw a total $16 million allocated for seven projects. A second round took place in July 2008 mirroring the first in terms of the number of projects agreed and funds disbursed. The remaining funds available to Sierra Leone from the PBF, $2.3 million, will shortly be allocated in a final approval round.

The PBF has helped disadvantaged youths to start up small businesses, maintained the electricity supply to Freetown over the last six months and improved access to justice for the citizens of Sierra Leone. Further information on the PBF, progress on its work in Sierra Leone and the projects supported is available on the PBF website:

http://www.unpbf.org/sierraleone/sierraleone.shtml

Sri Lanka: Overseas Aid

Mr. Burns: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what humanitarian aid his Department is providing for Sri Lanka *(a)* bilaterally and *(b)* via EU organisations in 2008-09. [268011]

Mr. Thomas: *(a)* The Department for International Development (DFID) has committed £5,000,000 of bilateral humanitarian assistance since September 2008:

£1,500,000 has been committed to the International Committee of the Red Cross for relief supplies such as food and plastic sheets for shelter and medical staff to treat the injured;

£1,000,000 has been committed to the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) for activities such as overseeing the registration of Internally Displaced People (IDPs) and advocating to the government of Sri Lanka for better conditions in camp settlements;

£250,000 has been committed to International Organisation for Migration (IOM) for tracking and logistical services;

£250,000 has been committed to the World Food Programme (WFP) for food delivery and logistical services to other organisations such as non-governmental organisations (NGOs);

£335,000 has been committed to the IOM for emergency assistance in IDP camps;

£750,000 is under consideration for the UN Office for the Co-ordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) for setting up the multi-donor Sri Lanka Emergency Response Fund which will give funds quickly to NGOs once established; and

£915,000 remains on hand ready to be flexibly programmed as the situation demands on the ground changes.

(b) EC official aid data for 2008 are not yet available.

Sri Lanka: Politics and Government

Mr. Burns: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what recent discussions he has had with the Sri Lankan government on the humanitarian situation in that country. [268019]

Mr. Thomas: The Department for International Development (DFID) is very concerned about the humanitarian situation in northern Sri Lanka, particularly the fate of the remaining civilians caught in the conflict area. We have made repeated calls for both the government of Sri Lanka and the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTEE) to agree an urgent humanitarian ceasefire to allow civilians to leave the conflict area safely and for more humanitarian supplies to be brought in.

My noble friend, Lord Malloch-Brown has regular telephone calls with the Sri Lankan Foreign Minister, most recently on the 16 March, when they discussed the political and humanitarian situation. Our high commission in Colombo continues to convey our concerns to the government of Sri Lanka at every opportunity.

CHILDREN, SCHOOLS AND FAMILIES

Adoption

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many children of each age at adoption who were adopted in each year since 1997 waited more than *(a)* six, *(b)* 12, *(c)* 18, *(d)* 24, *(e)* 30, *(f)* 36, *(g)* 42, *(h)* 48, *(i)* 54 and *(j)* 60 months to be adopted. [258634]

Beverley Hughes: Information on the number of children of each age at adoption who were adopted in each year since 2001 and who waited for more than *(a)* six, *(b)* 12, *(c)* 18, *(d)* 24, *(e)* 30, *(f)* 36, *(g)* 42, *(h)* 48, *(i)* 54 and *(j)* 60 months to be adopted has been placed in the House Library.

Information on the time waited for children adopted prior to 2001 is not collected centrally by the Department for Children, Schools and Families.

Children in Care: Truancy

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many and what percentage of school pupils who are children in care have been classed as persistent absentees in each of the last five years. [262398]

Beverley Hughes: The OC2 data collection collects information on a range of outcomes for looked after children from local authorities. This information has been published in the Statistical First Release "Outcome Indicators for Children Looked After. Twelve months to 30 September 2007—England" (SFR 08/2008), which is available on the Department's website via the following link:

http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000785/index.shtml

Information on the absence from school for looked after children was first collected in 2000; figures for earlier years are also published on the Department's website and can be found via the following links:

Figures for 2002 to 2004 are available in volume reference (03/2005) here:

http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/VOL/v000580/index.shtml

Figures for 2000-01 are available in volume reference (DH/VOL(OUT)01) here:

http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/VOL/v000523/index.shtml

Children: Exercise

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what steps his Department is taking to encourage children to increase their levels of daily exercise. [267027]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The Department for Children, Schools and Families and the Department for Culture, Media and Sport are working together to increase the amount of physical education (PE) and sport that young people receive through the delivery of a national strategy, introduced in 2003. As a result, the percentage of five to 16-year-olds taking part in at least two hours high quality PE and sport each week has increased from 62 per cent. in 2003, to 90 per cent. in 2008.

We now want to build on this and provide up to five hours of sport each week for young people. This will be made up of two hours of high quality PE within the school day for all five to 16-year-olds, and up to three further hours of sporting opportunities beyond the school day for all five to 19-year-olds.

The two Departments are working closely with the Youth Sport Trust and Sport England to deliver the strategy across the network of school sport partnerships and county sport partnerships.

Children: Human Trafficking

Mr. Bone: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what funding his Department has provided to local authorities for services for child victims of human trafficking in 2008-09. [261652]

Beverley Hughes: The information requested is not collected centrally. It is appropriate that each local authority shapes the services they provide to meet the needs of the local population. Where a local authority identifies a child who requires support, including those that have been trafficked, they are then responsible for identifying appropriate services to meet their needs, including being kept safe from any likely harm.

Children: Internet

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families when he plans to publish the Child Internet Safety Strategy. [267368]

Beverley Hughes *[holding answer 27 March 2009]:* On 10 March 2009, the Executive Board of the UK Council for Child Internet Safety, made up of representation from across Government, industry, law enforcement and the third sector, agreed that the Child Internet Safety Strategy should be published in the autumn.

Children: Protection

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families whether staff in his Department *(a)* received and *(b)* proposed revisions to draft sections of Lord Laming's report on the Protection of Children in England. [266325]

Beverley Hughes: As is common practice, officials in this Department were kept informed about the development of Lord Laming's independent report and were given the opportunity to comment at key stages.

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what powers his Department has to prevent a local authority publishing a redacted and anonymised full serious case review commissioned from its own local safeguarding children board. [265229]

Beverley Hughes: Lord Laming's Report, "The Protection of Children in England: A Progress Report", says

> "SCRs inevitably include a great deal of case material that should remain confidential, not only to protect vulnerable people, but also because SCRs depend upon the cooperation of witnesses, often in a highly charged situation. Without this assurance many would be reluctant to participate in the process, rendering the task worthless. The future of SCRs depends, to a large degree, on the guarantee of confidentiality. Full reports should remain confidential beyond the immediate partners involved in a case...".

The Government agrees with Lord Laming's view. Government statutory guidance, "Working Together to Safeguard Children (2006)" identifies the importance of maintaining confidentiality in SCRs in respect of personal information contained within reports on the child, family members and others. It also highlights the importance of maintaining public confidence in the process of internal review, securing full and open participation from the different agencies and professionals involved and balancing the constraints on public information-sharing when criminal proceedings are outstanding. The importance of this is reinforced by the passage referred to above in Lord Laming's Report. "Working Together to Safeguard Children" sets out clearly that the LSCB SCR overview report should contain an executive summary that will be made public.

In his Report Lord Laming states,

> "The confidentiality of full SCRs makes the provision of a high-quality executive summary all the more important. Executive summaries should provide an accurate reflection of all the main points in the full report, include a copy of the full action plan, and provide the names of all the SCR panel members so that the public can have confidence that a senior and multi-agency panel, as well as an independent chair and independent author, have been in charge of the process."

The Government have accepted Lord Laming's recommendation and will revise "Working Together to Safeguard Children" accordingly.

"Working Together" is issued as guidance to local authorities under section 7 of the Local Authority Social Services Act 1970 and as such should be followed. Any departure from such guidance could be subject to public law action by the Secretary of State subject to the specific circumstances and context of the case.

Christmas

Mr. Rob Wilson: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families whether it is his Department's policy to offer staff *(a)* additional leave entitlement for Christmas shopping and *(b)* Christmas bonus payments. [262799]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The Department does not offer staff additional leave entitlement or bonus payments for Christmas.

Citizenship: GCSE

Mr. Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what uptake his Department has estimated for the full GCSE in citizenship course starting in September 2009. [252918]

Jim Knight: No estimate has been made on the uptake of the full GCSE in citizenship course starting in September 2009.

Many schools who use the GCSE short course in citizenship have indicated an interest in the full course. In 2008, 84,588 pupils at the end of key stage 4 were entered into the GCSE short course in citizenship.

Departmental Standards

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what estimate he has made of the cost to his Department of measuring compliance with its targets under its public service agreements in the last 12 months for which figures are available. [266571]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: It is not possible to estimate the cost to the Department of measuring compliance with its targets under its public service agreements in the last 12 months without incurring disproportionate cost.

Economic Situation

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what *(a)* summits, *(b)* conferences and *(c)* seminars his Department has hosted since January 2008 at which a primary subject of discussion was the effect of the economic situation on matters within his Department's responsibility. [258862]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: Responding to the economic situation is a high priority for the Government. Summits, conferences and seminars are some of the methods used to engage stakeholders in this work and ensure action is co-ordinated and effective. While the Department has not hosted any summits, conferences or seminars at which a primary focus was the effect of the economic downturn, Ministers and senior officials have attended a number of meetings with stakeholders at which the economic situation was discussed.

Health Education: Sex

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families pursuant to the answer of 18 May 2009, *Official Report*, column 1248W, on health education: sex, if he will place in the Library a copy of the evidence the Sex and Relationships Education Steering Group commissioned on parents' views on sex and relationships education; and if he will make a statement. [266997]

Beverley Hughes: A copy of the presentations given to the sex and relationships education (SRE) steering group—which summarised the available evidence on parents' views on SRE—will be placed in the House Libraries. The presentations provided the basis for detailed discussion by the steering group (many of whom have practical experience of working with parents on SRE) on how schools can better engage with parents on SRE delivery.

We believe that the provision of SRE should be a partnership between parents and schools. Parents should lead on instilling values in their children, but schools have a clear role in giving young people accurate information and helping them to develop the skills they need to make safe and responsible choices. Available evidence suggests that the majority of parents support the provision of SRE in schools.

Local Safeguarding Children Boards

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many local safeguarding children boards are chaired by *(a)* an independent chair, *(b)* the Director of Children's

Services in the local authority, *(c)* a senior officer from the local health authority and *(d)* a senior officer from the local police authority; and if he will make a statement. [258350]

Beverley Hughes: The Department maintains a list of the chairs of Local Safeguarding Children Boards (LSCBs) which includes information about the status of the chair. The latest list of LSCB chairs is available on the Every Child Matters website. The website address to access the list is:

http://www.everychildmatters.gov.uk/IG00079/

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what assessment his Department has made of the compliance of local safeguarding children boards with the provisions of paragraph 5 *(a)* of the Local Safeguarding Children Boards Regulations 2006; and if he will make a statement. [258352]

Beverley Hughes: Local Safeguarding Children Boards' (LSCBs) compliance and effectiveness in their statutory role to develop policies and procedures for safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children is monitored by local authority scrutiny, through peer review based on self evaluation, performance indicators and joint audit and through the judgments made by inspectorates. The work of LSCBs has to be planned properly and fit within a framework of action set out in the Children and Young People's Plan.

Ofsted assesses and inspects local authority area level services for children, including the effectiveness of the LSCB. It has done so through annual performance assessments (APAs) and joint area reviews (JARs) of children's services. From April 2009 it will do so, with other inspectorates, as part of new arrangements for comprehensive area assessment (CAA). There will also be a three yearly cycle of inspections specifically of safeguarding and services for looked after children, undertaken by Ofsted and the new Care Quality Commission.

In his recent report, The Protection of Children in England: A Progress Report, Lord Laming states that

> "Despite Local Safeguarding Children Boards being relatively new, they are already having a positive impact on services for protecting children."

Ofsted published 21 Joint Area Reviews of children's services between April to June 2008 and in 18 of those they reported that LSCBs are already making a significant positive difference to their local services. Lord Laming's report makes a number of recommendations designed to strengthen further the positive impact of LSCBs. The Government have accepted Lord Laming's recommendations and set out in its immediate response, published on 12 March, how we will strengthen the role of the LSCB so that they challenge every member of the Children's Trust, through the Children's Trust Board, on their success in ensuring that children and young people are kept safe. The LSCB should also publish an annual report on the effectiveness of arrangements locally for keeping children safe, as recommended by Lord Laming.

The Government will publish a detailed response to all Lord Laming's recommendations by the end of April 2009.

Music Standards Fund

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how much has been spent on the Music Standards Fund in each year since 1999, expressed in 2008-09 prices. [259911]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The Music Standards Fund was introduced in 1999/2000. The table shows the total amounts allocated through the standards fund in each year since then, and expressed in 2008-09 prices.

£ million, rounded

	Amount	*Amount in 2008-09 prices*
1999-2000	40	50
2000-01	50	62
2001-02	50	61
2002-03	59.5	70
2003-04	61	70
2004-05	59.5	66
2005-06	61	67
2006-07	64	68
2007-08	82.5	85
2008-09	82.0	82.5

Between 2005-06 and 2008-09 local authorities have been expected to achieve efficiency gains of at least 2.5 per cent. per annum in line with the recommendations of the Gershon review.

Offences against Children: Haringey

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families whether Lord Laming was permitted to read the serious case review into the death of Baby P as part of his investigation into safeguarding. [266834]

Beverley Hughes *[holding answer 26 March 2009]*: Lord Laming was given permission to read the serious case review into the death of Baby P to inform his work; however his remit was to prepare a report on progress nationally on safeguarding and child protection. He also had access to Ofsted's first annual report of evaluations of serious case reviews published in December 2008, the two biennial overview reports of serious case reviews published in January 2008, and the emerging findings of the next biennial overview report of serious case reviews to be published this spring.

Pre-school Education: Finance

Annette Brooke: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what plans he has to link the allocation of the Nursery Education Grant to outcomes achieved through the early years foundation scheme; and if he will make a statement. [267279]

Beverley Hughes: In the Government's recent document, "Next Steps for Early Learning and Childcare", published in January we committed to exploring with local authorities the principles and practicalities of linking funding for the free early education entitlement more closely to the contributions providers make to children's development outcomes.

Officials in the Department began discussions with local authorities on this and other issues in the document through a series of regional events during March.

Pupils: Nutrition

Mrs. Maria Miller: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how much funding the Government has made available for improving nutrition in *(a)* primary schools, *(b)* secondary schools and *(c)* early years settings in the last 12 months; how much funding it has allocated for such work in 2009; and which schemes to improve nutrition in early years settings it has (i) funded in the last 12 months and (ii) plans to fund in 2009. [251930]

Jim Knight: We made available £220 million between 2005-06 to 2007-08 to assist authorities and schools in improving the quality of school lunches and other school food. A further £240 million is being provided between 2008-09 and 2010-11, to support the costs of school lunches.

Information is not available on how this funding is allocated between primary and secondary schools. The total amount of funding provided to maintained schools, academies and CTCs for the three years to 2009-10 is £239 million, as follows:

	£ million
2007-08	79
2008-09	80
2009-10	80

The Government provide approximately £37.5 million per annum to fund the School Fruit and Vegetable Scheme, which gives an entitlement to all four to six-year-old children in LEA-maintained infant, primary and special schools, to a free piece of fruit or vegetable each school day.

School Leaving: GCSE

Mr. Gray: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many pupils left secondary school without a GCSE at grade D or above in mathematics and English in *(a)* North Wiltshire, *(b)* Swindon, *(c)* London and *(d)* England in each of the last 10 years. [255330]

Jim Knight: The information can be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Schools: Boilers

Mr. Waterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many schools in *(a)* Eastbourne and *(b)* East Sussex are heated by oil-powered boilers. [267267]

Jim Knight: The Department does not hold this information. This information is usually held by local authorities.

Schools: Disadvantaged

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) how many *(a)* maintained and *(b)* non-maintained special schools in the (i) top and (ii) bottom decile of area deprivation as determined by the income deprivation affecting children index were judged to be (A) outstanding, (B) good, (C) adequate and (D) inadequate at their last Ofsted inspection; [264609]

(2) how many and what proportion of schools assessed as inadequate by Ofsted there are in each decile of area deprivation. [264670]

Jim Knight: These are matters for Ofsted. HM Chief Inspector, Christine Gilbert, has written to the hon. Member and copies of her replies have been placed in the House Libraries.

Letter from Christine Gilbert, dated 23 March 2009:

Parliamentary Question Number 264609: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families, how many (a) maintained and (b) non-maintained special schools in the (i) top and (ii) bottom decile of area deprivation as determined by the income deprivation affecting children index were judged to be (A) outstanding, (B) good, (C) adequate and (D) inadequate at their last Ofsted inspection.

Your recent parliamentary question has been passed to me, as Her Majesty's Chief Inspector, for reply.

Table A shows the number of maintained special schools and non-maintained special schools inspected by Ofsted in the 10% most deprived and 10% least deprived areas, along with their inspection outcomes. These indices of deprivation are taken from the income deprivation affecting children index (IDACI) 2007, produced by the Department for Communities and Local Government.

Table A—Overall effectiveness of special schools at their most recent inspection under the current inspection framework

		Overall effectiveness: number of schools inspected				
Type of special school	*IDACI*[1]	*Outstanding*	*Good*	*Satisfactory*	*Inadequate*	*Total*
Maintained special schools	10% most deprived areas	38	56	18	3	115
	10% least deprived areas	23	55	17	2	97
Non-maintained special schools	10% most deprived areas	0	0	0	0	0
	10% least deprived areas	3	5	3	0	11

[1] Income deprivation affecting children index 2007 (Department for Communities and Local Government)

As at 2 March 2009, 984 maintained special schools and 73 non-maintained schools were open in England; 958 of the maintained special schools and 70 of the non-maintained special schools have been inspected by Ofsted up to 31 December 2008, the latest inspection data available. Schools in the 10% least deprived and 10% most deprived areas were then identified using their postcodes.

One non-maintained special school in the 10% of most deprived areas was last inspected under the previous inspection framework, in use before September 2005. This is not included in Table A. The inspection outcome for this non-maintained special school was good. Under the previous school inspection framework (commonly known as Section 10), the overall effectiveness judgement was made using a seven point scale: excellent, very good, good, satisfactory, unsatisfactory, poor and very poor. It is not possible to operate a simple read-across approach from a seven- to a four-point scale. Ofsted's criteria for making inspection judgements about schools are clearly set out in our inspection guidance. Inspectors do not make reference to, or comparisons with, the previous inspection framework.

A copy of this reply has been sent to Rt Hon Jim Knight MP, Minister of State for Schools and Learners and will be placed in the library of both Houses.

Letter from Christine Gilbert, dated 23 March 2009:

Parliamentary Question Number 264670: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families, how many and what proportion of schools assessed as inadequate by Ofsted there are in each decile of area deprivation.

Your recent parliamentary question has been passed to me, as Her Majesty's Chief Inspector, for reply.

Table A shows the number and proportion of maintained schools found to be inadequate at their last inspection, allocated to ten bands according to the income deprivation affecting children index (IDACI) 2007, produced by the Department for Communities and Local Government, where 1 indicates the most deprived 10%, and 10 indicates the least deprived 10%.

Table A – Schools with inadequate overall effectiveness at their most recent inspection, by area deprivation

Bands of deprivation (based on IDACI[1])	*Number of schools*	*Percentage*
1 (most deprived 10%)	87	19
2	58	13
3	68	15
4	54	12
5	52	11
6	39	8
7	27	6
8	31	7
9	30	6
10 (least deprived 10%)	17	4
Total	463	100

[1] Income deprivation affecting children index 2007 (Department for Communities and Local Government)

Note:

Percentages are rounded and do not always add exactly to 100

As of 2 March 2009, there were 22,391 maintained schools open in England. 22,011 of these have been inspected by Ofsted up to 31 December 2008, the latest data available, and 463 were found to be inadequate at their most recent inspection. The IDACI was used to allocate these schools into ten bands, based on their postcodes.

A copy of this reply has been sent to Rt Hon Jim Knight MP, Minister of State for Schools and Learners and will be placed in the library of both Houses.

Schools: Offensive Weapons

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many pupils have been arrested for taking weapons into schools in *(a)* Essex local authority, *(b)* Southend unitary authority and *(c)* Thurrock unitary authority in the last 12 months. [266588]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The information requested on arrests is not collected centrally. The data on arrests held by the Home Office cover arrests for recorded crime (notifiable offences) broken down at main offence group level, covering categories such as violence against the person and robbery; they would not show the number of people arrested specifically for taking weapons into schools. It is not possible to obtain the individual circumstances of persons arrested (for example whether the person arrested is a pupil) from the data on arrests held by the Home Office.

Special Educational Needs: Per Capita Costs

Mr. Newmark: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how much on average his Department spent per pupil with special educational needs in *(a)* Braintree constituency and *(b)* Essex in the last five years. [266343]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The Department allocates education funding to local authorities so the requested information for Braintree constituency is not available. In addition it is for local authorities to determine how they spend their funds locally.

The following table shows the budgeted net expenditure by Essex local authority and England on the provision of education for children with special educational needs from 2004-05 to 2008-09:

Budgeted net expenditure on the education of children with special educational needs

	England		*Essex local authority*	
	£	*£ per pupil*	*£*	*£ per pupil*
2004-05	3,774,757,000	2,700	81,359,000	2,640
2005-06	4,120,549,000	2,900	87,946,000	2,760
2006-07	4,481,245,000	3,040	96,982,000	2,990
2007-08	4,863,604,000	3,240	103,046,000	3,070
2008-09	5,098,916,000	3,310	126,001,000	3,600

Notes:

1. Includes planned expenditure on the provision for pupils with statements and the provision for non-statemented pupils with SEN, support for inclusion, inter authority recoupment, fees for pupils at independent special schools and abroad, educational psychology service, local authority functions in relation to child protection, therapies and other health related services, parent partnership, guidance and information, the monitoring of SEN provision and inclusion administration, assessment and co-ordination. Also included is the funding delegated to nursery, primary and secondary schools identified as "notional SEN" and the individual schools budget (ISB) for special schools.
2. The ISB for special schools will include some general education costs for pupils with SEN in addition to those costs specifically for SEN while the figures recorded against "notional SEN" are only indicative of the amount that might by spent by schools on SEN. In 2005-06, 2006-07, 2007-08 and 2008-09 local authorities in England also budgeted £499.6 million, £528.5 million, £554.9 million and £552.6 million for SEN transport expenditure but this is not included in the above table as figures are not available prior to 2005-06.
3. The number of pupils with SEN for each year is calculated as the combination of the full-time equivalent (FTE) number of pupils in special schools, the headcount of the number of pupils in maintained nursery, primary and secondary schools with statements, the headcount of the number of pupils in pupil referral units with statements, the headcount of SEN pupils without statements in maintained nursery, primary, and secondary schools, the headcount of SEN pupils without statements in pupil referral units and the headcount of pupils in independent schools and academies with statements. These figures are drawn from the DCSF January Schools Census.
4. Pupil numbers are only available up to 2008 and consequently we have been unable to convert pupil numbers to a financial year basis as the 2009 pupil numbers are not available yet. Consequently there is a mismatch between the financial year planned expenditure and the academic year pupil numbers. The number of pupils with SEN in the January preceding the financial year have been used to calculate the unit costs provided above (e.g. the 2008-09 unit cost is calculated by dividing the 2008-09 planned expenditure by the January 2008 pupil numbers).
5. Total expenditure figures are rounded to the nearest £1,000 with per pupil figures rounded to the nearest £10.
6. Cash terms figures as reported by local authorities as at 23 March 2009.
7. Financial data are taken from local authorities' Children, Schools and Families budget statements (formally section 52) submitted to the DCSF while pupil numbers are drawn from the DCSF January schools census.

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how much on average his Department and its predecessor spent on each pupil with special educational needs in *(a)* Castle Point and *(b)* Essex in each of the last five years; and if he will make a statement. [267056]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The Department allocates education funding to local authorities so the requested information for Castle Point constituency is not available. In addition, it is for local authorities to determine how they spend their funds locally.

The following table shows the budgeted net expenditure by Essex local authority and England on the provision of education for children with special educational needs from 2004-05 to 2008-09.

Budgeted net expenditure on the education of children with special educational needs

	England		*Essex local authority*	
	£	*£ per pupil*	*£*	*£ per pupil*
2004-05	3,774,757,000	2,700	81,359,000	2,640
2005-06	4,120,549,000	2,900	87,946,000	2,760
2006-07	4,481,245,000	3,040	96,982,000	2,990
2007-08	4,863,604,000	3,240	103,046,000	3,070
2008-09	5,098,916,000	3,310	126,001,000	3,600

Special Educational Needs: Pupil Exclusions

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) how many and what percentage of pupils with non-statemented special educational needs received at least one *(a)* fixed-term and *(b)* permanent exclusion from a mainstream school in each local authority area in each year since 1997; [264602]

(2) how many and what percentage of pupils with statements of special educational needs received at least one *(a)* fixed-term and *(b)* permanent exclusion from a mainstream school in each local authority area in each year since 1997; [264603]

(3) how many and what percentage of pupils without special educational needs received at least one *(a)* fixed-term and *(b)* permanent exclusion from mainstream schools in each local authority area in each year since 1997. [264604]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: Data on pupil characteristics linked to exclusions were collected in the school census for the first time in 2005/06, but were collected from secondary schools only. In 2006/07, data were also collected from primary and special schools. However, the requested information for one year could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

This is because the special educational needs status can change between periods of exclusion and the Department is currently working on a methodology for the analysis of this information.

Special Educational Needs: Truancy

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many parents of children with *(a)* statemented and *(b)* non-statemented special educational needs were fined for the unauthorised absence of their child from mainstream schools in 2008. [266446]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: This information is not collected centrally.

Specialised Diplomas: Disadvantaged

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many and what proportion of pupils enrolled on diploma courses are entitled to free school meals. [266335]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: In the summer we will have information about the proportions of pupils entered for diplomas, broken down by free school meals for those pupils sitting examinations in 2009.

UK Council for Child Internet Safety

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families if he will list the *(a)* members and *(b)* secretariat of the UK Council for Child Internet Safety. [267311]

Beverley Hughes: The Secretariat for UKCCIS is made up officials from the Home Office, Becta and DCSF.

The following is an alphabetical list of members of the UK Council for Child Internet Safety (UKCCIS) as of 16 February 2009. Organisation name is used in the main, except where the member is acting in an individual capacity.

3TM
Activision/Vivendi
Advertising Association
Advertising Standards Authority (ASA)
AOL UK
Association for Infant Mental Health
Association for Payment Clearing Services (APACS)
Association of Directors of Children's Services (ADCS)
Bebo
Paul Beresford
British Board of Film Classification (BBFC)
British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC)
British Computer Society (BCS)
British Educational Communications and Technology Agency (BECTA)
British Sky Broadcasting (BSkyB)
British Standards Institute
British Telecommunications Plc (BT)
Broadband Stakeholder Group
Annette Brooke
Carphone Warehouse Group Plc
Child Exploitation and Online Protection Centre (CEOP)
Childnet International
Churches' Child Protection Advisory Service (CCPAS)
Richard Clayton
Crisp Thinking
Crown Prosecution Service (CPS)
Digital Media Group
Disney
Dixons Group
Electronic Arts
Joe Elliot
Elysium Gaming
Entertainment and Leisure Software Publishers Association (ELSPA)

Entertainment Retailers Association
E Safety Ltd.
Facebook
Keri Facer
Family and Parenting Institute
Family Online Safety Institute
Family Welfare Association (now renamed Family Action)
Game Group
Adam Gee
Alisdair Gillespie
Jon Gisby
Google
Independent Commission for the Supervision of Standards of Telephone Information Services (ICSTIS)
Information Commissioner's Office (ICO)
Intellect
Interactive Software Federation of Europe (ISFE)
Internet Advertising Bureau (IAB)
Internet Watch Foundation (IWF)
Internet Services Providers' Association (ISPA)
Intuitive Media
Jagex
Anthony Lilley
LINX
London School of Economics
Mastertronic Group
Media Literacy Task Force
Mediawatch
Microsoft
Andrea Millwood Hargrave
Mobile Broadband Group
Myspace
National Academy for Parenting Practitioners
National Association of Head Teachers (NAHT)
National Association of Schoolmasters Union of Women Teachers (NASUWT)
National Children's Bureau
National Children's Homes (NCH)
National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children (NSPCC)
NC Soft
News Corporation
Nickelodeon
Nintendo
Northamptonshire County Council
Office of Communications (Ofcom)
Open Rights Group
Orange
The Overtis Group Limited
Oxford University
Pan-European Game Information (PEGI)
Papyrus
Parenting UK
Parentline Plus
Phorm
Piczo
Press Complaints Commission
Research In Motion
Fiona Romeo
Samaritans
Sandbach High School & Sixth Form College
Sentry Parental Controls
Sony Computer Entertainment Europe
Stop It Now
South West Grid for Learning
Symantec
Telefonica 02 UK
Thus PLC
Tiga
Tiscali
T-Mobile
Ubisoft
University for Industry (Ufi)—UK Online Centres
Virgin Media
Vodafone UK
Monica Whitty
Yahoo
Young Scot

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many times the UK Council for Child Internet Safety has met; who was present at each meeting; and what was discussed at each meeting. [267367]

Beverley Hughes *[holding answer 27 March 2009]*: The Executive Board of the UK Council for Child Internet Safety has met twice. The first meeting was on 9 December 2008 and the most recent was 10 March 2009. The next quarterly meeting is scheduled for 9 June 2009.

Meeting notes and attendance lists from all board meetings are published online on the UKCCIS website

http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/ukccis/management.shtml

Unemployment: Eastbourne

Mr. Waterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many individuals resident in Eastbourne constituency aged between 16 and 24 years are not in employment, training or full-time education. [267251]

Jim Knight: Information on the number of 16 to 24-year-olds resident in the Eastbourne constituency who are not in employment, training or full-time education is not available.

However, we can use information collected by the Connexions service to estimate the number and proportion of young people not in education, employment or training (NEET) at local authority level. The 2008 estimate for East Sussex is that 1,160 16 to 18-year-olds were NEET (7.2 per cent. of the 16 to 18-year-old population). Connexions services do not collect information on 19 to 24-year-olds, or provide information to the Department at constituency level.

Young People: Carers

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many children under the age of 16-years have been identified as young carers in *(a)* Essex local authority, *(b)* Southend unitary authority and *(c)* Thurrock unitary authority. [266587]

Beverley Hughes: The 2001 Census, which is the only source of nationally comparable data on the number of carers of all ages, indicated that the number of young carers aged under 16 in Essex local authority was 2000, 300 in Southend unitary authority and 300 in Thurrock unitary authority.

WORK AND PENSIONS

Council Tax Benefit

Julia Goldsworthy: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate he has made of the cost to the public purse of raising the income level at which a household no longer receives full council tax benefit to £116 a week for *(a)* a single person aged under 25 years, *(b)* a single person aged over 25 years and *(c)* a couple of working age. [266520]

Kitty Ussher *[holding answer 25 March 2009]*: I refer the hon. Member to the written answer I gave her on 25 March 2009, *Official Report*, column 450W.

Departmental Carbon Emissions

Greg Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions whether his Department has adopted the Carbon Trust's Carbon Management Programme. [266735]

Jonathan Shaw: The Department worked with the Carbon Trust on a range of measures to improve communications and staff engagement, as the conventional audit based scheme did not, on this occasion, offer any additional benefits to the information provided by our PFI estates partner.

The Department has now committed to meeting the new carbon standard, which has replaced the Energy Efficiency Accreditation scheme.

Departmental Disciplinary Proceedings

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many staff in his Department *(a)* were disciplined and *(b)* had their employment terminated as a result of a poor sickness record in each of the last 12 months. [262224]

Jonathan Shaw: The information is contained in the following table. The data reflect information currently held on the Department's personnel computer system.

Last 12 months	*Number of staff disciplined due to poor sickness record*	*As a percentage of the total work force*[1]	*Number of staff whose employment was terminated due to poor sickness record*	*As a percentage of the total work force*[1]
2009				
February	626	0.58	58	0.05
January	1,000	0.93	77	0.07
2008				
December	762	0.71	64	0.06
November	673	0.63	50	0.05
October	714	0.67	66	0.06
September	527	0.45	73	0.06
August	444	0.38	57	0.05
July	619	0.52	71	0.06
June	532	0.46	59	0.05
May	563	0.49	70	0.06
April	694	0.60	69	0.06
March	661	0.57	48	0.04

[1] Total work force includes all staff in the Department with an open civil service contract as at the Office for National Statistics (ONS) reference point, the last working day of each month.

Departmental Empty Property

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate he has made of the change in the annual cost to his Department of maintaining the empty public buildings owned by his Department as a result of the April 2008 changes to empty property rate relief. [267131]

Jonathan Shaw: DWP does not own any buildings. Vacated buildings are handed back to Trillium (our PFI provider) and maintenance and disposal are at no cost to the Exchequer.

Departmental Energy

Greg Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what steps have been taken by *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agencies to improve the thermal efficiency of their buildings in the last 12 months. [266763]

Jonathan Shaw: The Department for Work and Pensions does not own its estate, but accesses fully serviced accommodation from its PFI estates partner Trillium. The Department looks for improvements to the thermal efficiency of buildings to be achieved either through an ongoing programme of life cycle works or specific spend-to-save projects.

Due to the scale of the Department and the associated life cycle works programme it is possible to identify individual projects, and the elements within them which would improve the thermal efficiency of a building, only at a disproportionate cost. However energy use, and energy efficiency across the estate, are monitored very closely.

A range of energy efficiency "spend-to-save" projects have been undertaken over several years. During the past 12 months only one project focusing specifically on the thermal efficiency of building has been completed. March 2008 saw the conclusion of a project to fit heating valve insulation covers, which commenced in 2006, with a total of 33,200 fitted across the estate. Between January and March 2008 53 buildings were completed—with an average of 43 units installed per building.

Greg Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what recent progress his Department has made towards the target of increasing its energy efficiency per square metre of its estate by 15 per cent. by 2010, relative to 1999-2000 levels; and if he will make a statement. [266874]

Jonathan Shaw: The following table shows the Department's performance against the sustainable operations on the Government estate target to increase energy efficiency per square metre of its estate by 15 per cent. by 2010, compared with a 1999-2000 baseline.

Additionally, energy efficiency is also shown as a measurement of energy use against the number of full-time equivalent (FTE) permanent staff in post within the Department since 1999-2000.

	Energy efficiency kWh/m²	*Percentage change compared to 1999-2000*	*Energy efficiency kWh/FTE*	*Percentage Percentage change compared to 1999-2000*
1999-2000	100.00	n/a	100.00	n/a
2000-01	89.62	-10.38	95.88	-4.12
2001-02	94.46	-5.54	95.09	-4.91
2002-03	96.94	-3.06	92.59	-7.41
2003-04	93.29	-6.71	94.96	-5.04
2004-05	99.05	-0.95	101.34	1.34
2005-06	94.01	-5.99	99.55	-0.45
2006-07	105.10	5.10	106.89	6.89
2007-08	97.53	-2.47	94.27	-5.73

A number of other issues affect the achievement of this target and need to be considered when assessing performance. To meet needs of citizens and to deliver significantly improved customer service the Department has experienced an unprecedented increase in the use of information technology since 1999-2000. While this has provided significant efficiency gains it has also resulted in increased energy consumption—adversely impacting on targets for reduction in carbon and increased energy efficiency.

Departmental Public Appointments

Julia Goldsworthy: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions which former *(a)* hon. Members who left Parliament since 1997 and *(b)* members of the House of Lords have been appointed to public bodies within his Department's responsibility; and who made each appointment. [268180]

Jonathan Shaw: There have been no hon. Members who left Parliament since 1997 appointed to the public bodies sponsored by my Department.

The Pensions Advisory Service (TPAS) currently has Baroness Hollis on their Board as non-executive member. Her period of appointment is from 12 January 2006 to 11 January 2012. Appointments to the TPAS Board are not ministerial appointments, but are made either by the board itself or voted for by the volunteers of the organisation.

Information about the political activity of ministerial appointees is recorded and publicised in accordance with the independent Commissioner for Public Appointments' Code of Practice.

Departmental Public Relations

Mr. Hurd: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions with reference to the answer to the hon. Member for Angus of 27 March 2006, *Official Report*, column 741W, on public relations companies, (1) if he will list the public relations companies that have had contracts with *(a)* his Department, *(b)* each (i) non-departmental public body and (ii) executive agency for which his Department is responsible and *(c)* independent statutory bodies, organisations and bodies financially sponsored by his Department and other such organisations since March 2006; and what the cost to the public purse was of each such contract; [250313]

(2) how much was spent on each of the firms listed in the answer since June 2001. [250314]

Jonathan Shaw: The information requested in the two questions above is provided in the following table:

£000

DWP and its Agencies:	*2001-02*	*2002-03*	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*
Geronimo	n/a	459	692	397	777	491	0
Hill and Knowlton	n/a	0	0	0	0	0	0
The Forster Company	n/a	0	0	217	0	0	0
Trimedia Harrison Cowley Ltd (formerly Citigate Communications)	n/a	0	0	0	190	133	0
Fishburn Hedges	n/a	0	0	0	369	295	598
August One	n/a	0	0	0	0	0	0
Porter Novelli	n/a	0	0	0	0	0	0

DWP and its Agencies:	*2001-02*	*2002-03*	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*£000* *2007-08*
Consolidated Communications	n/a	0	0	0	0	0	0
Euro RSCG Biss Lancaster	n/a	0	0	0	0	0	0
Munroe and Foster	n/a	0	0	0	0	0	0
QBO Bell Pottinger	n/a	0	0	0	0	0	0
COI	n/a	0	0	17	33	0	17
Band and Brown	n/a	0	242	0	0	0	0
Beattie Communications	n/a	0	0	0	0	0	0
Pergoda	n/a	0	0	0	0	0	0
GCI London	n/a	0	308	383	112	0	0
NDPB's							
(1) Health and Safety Executive (HSE)							
Mandate (formerly AS Biss)	n/a	n/a	n/a	129	180	241	0
Weber Shandwick	n/a	0	0	0	0	0	133
GCI (UK)	n/a	0	0	0	0	0	0
Exposure	n/a	0	0	0	0	0	0
Eloqui	n/a	0	0	0	0	0	0
PR21	n/a	0	0	0	0	0	0
Furner Communications	n/a	0	0	0	0	0	0
(2) Independent Living Fund (ILF)							
Engage Group (formerly Limehouse)	n/a	0	0	0	0	27	23
Hill and Knowlton	n/a	0	0	0	0	19	12
(3) Pensions Protection Fund (PPF)							
Fishburn Hedges	n/a	0	0	0	36	71	26
Martin Adeney Associates	n/a	46	75	63	20	0	0
David Felton Media Consultancy	n/a	0	0	0	78	71	77
Warwick Emmanuel	n/a	2	16	26	33	27	45
Compro PR	n/a	29	10	0	0	0	0
Impact Press and PR	n/a	39	19	21	48	14	0
Harris Associates	n/a	6	80	93	109	123	93
Nexus	n/a	0	0	0	0	0	0
(4) The Pensions Regulator (TPR)							
Citigate Dewe Rogerson	n/a	0	0	0	7	0	0
(5) Remploy							
Martin Adeney Associates	0	46	75	63	20	0	0
David Felton Media Consultancy	0	0	0	0	78	71	77
Warwick Emmanuel	0	2	16	26	33	27	45
Compro PR	0	29	10	0	0	0	0
Impact Press and PR	0	39	19	21	48	14	0
Harris Associates	0	6	80	93	109	123	93
Nexus	0	30	21	21	37	10	0

n/a = Information is not available for 2001-02 as records were not held centrally and the Central Office of Information service was not being used.

The following NDPBs and other bodies have reported that they have incurred no expenditure with public relations agencies in the period in question:

Disability Employment Advisory Committee
Disability Living Allowance Advisory Board
Equality 2025
Industrial Injuries Advisory Council
Personal Accounts Delivery Authority
Pensions Ombudsman
Social Security Advisory Committee
Pensions Protection Fund Ombudsman
The Pensions Advisory Service
Working Ventures UK
Motability
Independent Review Service for the Social Fund

The Disability Rights Commission, which was referred to in the March 2006 question, was dissolved from September 2007 and its paper and electronic records have been archived. The Department would incur disproportionate cost in accessing these records to obtain the required information.

Departmental Recycling

Mr. Rob Wilson: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much and what proportion of its waste his Department recycled in 2007-08. [266777]

Jonathan Shaw: The following table gives information on waste produced and recycled by the Department for Work and Pensions for 2007-08. It reflects the information reported within the 2008 Sustainable Development in Government report.

	Metric tonnes/ percentage
Amount of waste produced (Metric tonnes)	20,344.55
Amount of waste recycled (Metric tonnes)	12,954.26
Amount recycled as a percentage of waste produced	64

Departmental Standards

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate he has made of the cost to his Department of measuring compliance with its targets under its public service agreements in the last 12 months for which figures are available. [266702]

Jonathan Shaw: The information requested is not collated centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Employment Schemes

Justine Greening: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many employers have signed up to the Jobcentre Plus local employment partnerships; how many people have found employment through the scheme *(a)* in each year since the scheme was launched and *(b)* in each of the last 24 months in each (i) region and (ii) Jobcentre Plus district. [264267]

Mr. McNulty: The administration of Jobcentre Plus is a matter for the acting chief executive of Jobcentre Plus, Mel Groves. I have asked him to provide the hon. Member with the information requested.

Letter from Mel Groves:

The Secretary of State has asked me to reply to your question asking how many employers have signed up to Jobcentre Plus' Local Employment partnerships; how many people have found employment through the scheme (a) in each year since the scheme was launched and (b) in each of the last 24 months in each (i) region and (ii) Jobcentre Plus district. These are matters that fall within the responsibilities delegated to me as Acting Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus.

Through Local Employment Partnerships (LEPs), Jobcentre Plus and its partners work in business partnership with employers. LEPs aim to enable employers to recruit more of our priority customers - people who don't have a job and who, because of the relative disadvantage they face in the labour market, can often be overlooked in the recruitment process.

LEPs were announced in the March 2007 budget, covering at that stage five major retailers. In July 2007 the Government announced that the LEP approach would be extended to all sectors of the economy. For Jobcentre Plus, the essential first stage of this expanded LEP initiative was an extensive programme of employer engagement - negotiations with many individual employers to establish whether, and in what specific ways, the employer could agree to work through an LEP-style business partnership.

By the end of July 2007 25 employers had committed to working with us through LEPs; by the end of December 2007 that number had grown to more than 300. During 2008 we continued to engage with new employers, including at local level many small and medium sized enterprises. By the end of January 2009 more than 20,000 employers had recruited through LEPs.

Jobcentre Plus has collected administrative data on the numbers of people finding jobs through LEPs since the initiative began. This process does not involve the same quality assurance approach as National Statistics: our administrative data is internally validated to assure its accuracy, in line with NAO guidelines. Monthly figures are available starting from November 2007, when a new system for recording outcomes was introduced.

I enclose at Annex 1 a Table showing, by Jobcentre Plus Region and District, the numbers of people recorded as having found jobs through LEPs in each month from November 2007 and a cumulative figure for the period up to and including October 2007. (The total number of LEP job outcomes recorded before November 2007 was 1,551.)

The Table shows that, by the end of January 2009, the latest month for which complete information is available, a total of 116,805 LEP job outcomes had been recorded by Jobcentre Plus.

Number of people recorded as having found jobs through Local Employment Partnerships

	2007-08						
	Job outcomes up to and including October 2007	*November 2007*	*December 2007*	*January 2008*	*February 2008*	*March 2008*	*Total job outcomes 2007-08*
East Midlands	5	2	0	10	12	39	68
Derbyshire	0	2	0	4	1	7	14
Leicestershire and Northamptonshire	5	0	0	5	9	28	47
Lincolnshire and Rutland	0	0	0	0	1	1	2
Nottinghamshire	0	0	0	1	1	3	5
East of England	12	3	6	29	4	30	84
Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire	0	0	0	20	0	5	25
Cambridgeshire and Suffolk	9	0	5	2	3	3	22
Essex	2	0	0	2	0	18	22
Norfolk	5	3	1	1	1	4	15
London	652	276	144	165	164	52	1,453
Central London	261	8	7	8	8	4	296
City and East London	95	23	45	44	34	14	255
Lambeth, Southwark and Wandsworth	139	50	19	36	70	1	315
North and North East London	40	171	66	15	24	17	333
South London	81	22	7	49	13	5	177
West London	36	2	0	13	15	11	77

Number of people recorded as having found jobs through Local Employment Partnerships

	Job outcomes up to and including October 2007	November 2007	December 2007	January 2008	February 2008	March 2008	Total job outcomes 2007-08
North East	183	0	0	15	57	40	295
Northumbria	11	0	0	11	7	10	39
South Tyne and Wear Valley	164	0	0	1	4	28	197
Tees Valley	8	0	0	3	46	2	59
North West	144	3	5	10	37	11	210
Cheshire and Warrington	0	1	0	1	1	0	3
Cumbria	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Greater Manchester Central	8	0	2	0	19	4	33
Greater Manchester East and West	46	0	0	0	2	1	49
Greater Mersey	75	0	0	1	1	0	77
Lancashire	0	2	3	8	7	3	23
Liverpool and Wirral	15	0	0	0	7	1	23
Scotland	212	174	36	74	124	93	713
Ayrshire, Dumfries and Galloway and Inverclyde	62	0	13	10	22	12	119
Edinburgh and Lothian and Borders	67	0	15	0	5	3	90
Forth Valley, Fife and Tayside	60	69	5	26	21	13	194
Glasgow	23	3	1	13	2	7	49
Highlands, Islands, Clyde Coast and Grampian	0	22	1	20	66	46	155
Lanarkshire and East Dunbartonshire	0	80	1	5	8	12	106
South East	61	7	5	10	12	37	132
Berks, Bucks and Oxfordshire	0	0	0	0	1	4	5
Hampshire	0	0	0	4	6	12	22
Kent	58	0	0	5	2	21	86
Surrey and Sussex	4	7	5	0	3	0	19
South West	0	1	3	31	24	39	98
Devon and Cornwall	0	0	1	4	20	31	56
Dorset and Somerset	0	0	1	25	1	0	27
Gloucestershire, Wiltshire and Swindon	0	0	0	2	2	3	7
West of England	0	1	1	0	1	4	7
Wales	3	220	10	41	42	30	346
North and Mid Wales	1	8	0	36	5	3	53
South East Wales	2	4	9	0	12	4	31
South Wales Valleys	0	208	0	3	23	7	241
South West Wales	0	0	1	2	2	16	21
West Midlands	117	75	8	5	19	24	248
Birmingham and Solihull	0	8	0	0	12	20	40
Black Country	139	0	2	0	0	0	141
Coventry and Warwickshire	1	42	6	5	4	2	60
Staffordshire	0	0	0	0	2	2	4
The Marches	0	2	0	0	1	0	3
Yorks and Humber	162	12	5	17	33	26	255
North and East Yorkshire and the Humber	83	10	0	2	13	2	110
South Yorkshire	31	2	1	13	9	13	69
West Yorkshire	48	0	4	2	11	11	76

Number of people recorded as having found jobs through Local Employment Partnerships

	2007-08						
	Job outcomes up to and including October 2007	*November 2007*	*December 2007*	*January 2008*	*February 2008*	*March 2008*	*Total job outcomes 2007-08*
Contact Centres	—	—	—	—	—	—	9
Totals for 2007-08	—	—	—	—	—	—	3,911

	2008-09										
	April 2008	*May 2008*	*June 2008*	*July 2008*	*August 2008*	*September 2008*	*October 2008*	*November 2008*	*December 2008*	*January 2009*	*Total job outcomes 2008-09*
East Midlands	106	135	311	339	425	688	1,765	1,186	857	905	6,717
Derbyshire	24	22	148	114	153	161	230	161	70	182	1,265
Leicestershire and Northamptonshire	0	49	107	146	181	276	278	344	485	414	2,280
Lincolnshire and Rutland	71	35	11	37	32	69	253	164	67	105	844
Nottinghamshire	11	29	45	42	59	182	1,004	517	235	204	2,328
East of England	54	55	211	525	589	980	1,262	1,298	551	755	6,280
Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire	0	10	28	51	83	175	339	361	195	250	1,492
Cambridgeshire and Suffolk	27	21	65	213	212	377	335	283	151	195	1,879
Essex	23	15	35	91	101	183	326	374	119	195	1,462
Norfolk	4	9	83	170	193	245	262	280	86	115	1,447
London	482	485	965	1,691	1,908	2,317	2,875	3,488	1,932	3,332	19,475
Central London	28	31	234	257	542	214	212	391	226	239	2,374
City and East London	31	39	124	356	213	293	462	763	436	925	3,642
Lambeth, Southwark and Wandsworth	219	150	185	241	213	316	357	411	225	516	2,833
North and North East London	59	80	154	329	329	581	559	908	272	509	3,780
South London	114	121	188	278	398	375	741	507	532	495	3,749
West London	31	64	80	230	213	538	544	508	241	648	3,097
North East	211	252	169	457	479	875	1,745	1,761	1,095	1,347	8,391
Northumbria	43	55	65	118	122	303	600	769	388	437	2,900
South Tyne and Wear Valley	151	145	64	251	227	197	623	573	388	517	3,136
Tees Valley	17	52	40	88	130	375	522	419	319	393	2,355
North West	434	262	526	736	978	1,383	2,707	2,331	1,333	2,556	13,246
Cheshire Halton and Warrington	5	18	31	62	29	97	262	155	88	150	897
Cumbria and Lancashire	52	72	170	161	259	379	656	677	334	830	3,590
Greater Manchester Central	20	55	126	202	252	380	301	341	210	438	2,305
Greater Manchester East and West	16	83	104	156	251	337	622	550	364	460	2,943
Merseyside	341	34	92	154	193	190	866	608	337	678	3,433
Scotland	725	1,225	1,247	1,274	1,463	1,570	1,987	1,737	896	1,620	13,744
Ayrshire, Dumfries and Galloway and Inverclyde	112	165	213	205	205	295	435	355	160	250	2,412
Edinburgh and Lothian and Borders	45	111	157	108	246	232	289	197	104	133	1,622

	2008-09										
	April 2008	*May 2008*	*June 2008*	*July 2008*	*August 2008*	*September 2008*	*October 2008*	*November 2008*	*December 2008*	*January 2009*	*Total job outcomes 2008-09*
Forth Valley, Fife and Tayside	198	210	227	213	201	245	270	202	112	236	2,120
Glasgow	112	201	202	254	265	298	382	462	242	322	2,940
Highlands, Islands, Clyde Coast and Grampian	208	365	308	303	354	330	333	287	158	264	2,960
Lanarkshire and East Dunbartonshire	50	173	147	191	192	170	270	234	113	209	1,749
South East	69	166	365	427	972	720	1,780	1,492	966	1,055	7,692
Berks, Bucks and Oxfordshire	5	21	25	90	236	125	152	268	286	192	1,336
Hampshire	29	72	69	130	80	163	376	395	206	340	1,836
Kent	25	30	31	136	108	221	300	410	179	204	1,764
Surrey and Sussex	12	21	58	109	137	239	478	425	303	308	2,076
South West	50	139	223	330	418	717	1,332	1,315	838	1,140	6,400
Devon and Cornwall	20	70	190	193	227	279	403	427	202	306	2,364
Dorset and Somerset	8	15	18	76	71	160	109	302	199	212	1,300
Gloucestershire, Wiltshire and Swindon	5	19	18	40	62	99	182	237	186	275	1,133
West of England	17	17	28	67	58	195	368	347	150	353	1,611
Wales	230	220	240	626	602	820	1,900	1,313	700	864	7,666
North and Mid Wales	60	77	95	102	173	180	108	222	206	201	1,590
South East Wales	16	49	51	137	133	239	503	229	89	160	1,626
South Wales Valleys	117	70	100	265	171	200	907	583	214	290	2,325
South West Wales	50	34	50	122	215	195	360	279	162	213	1,596
West Midlands	150	407	413	802	1,205	1,566	2,371	1,090	1,087	1,400	10,504
Birmingham and Solihull	56	208	96	229	384	585	802	780	590	940	4,677
Black Country	40	94	149	263	340	466	625	463	202	298	2,871
Coventry and Warwickshire	17	34	34	126	207	178	178	200	79	141	1,202
Staffordshire	15	27	86	171	150	296	505	423	183	200	2,120
The Marches	25	44	48	102	120	175	261	166	133	176	1,236
Yorks and Humber	92	112	494	1,055	920	1,266	1,956	1,130	1,276	1,080	9,457
North and East Yorkshire and the Humber	8	21	146	413	199	463	430	479	280	206	2,705
South Yorkshire	71	65	118	367	297	500	671	287	860	608	3,659
West Yorkshire	13	26	230	275	368	432	793	373	212	315	3,013
Contact Centre[1]	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3,566
Totals for 2008-09	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	112,866

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[1] Jobcentre Plus has a contact centre network enabling jobseekers to apply for job vacancies by telephone. This is a virtual network, covering the whole of Great Britain. LEP job outcomes achieved as a result of contact centre activity are not attributed to individual districts.

Note:

LEP job outcomes are defined as those job outcomes achieved for eligible customers with employers who have agreed to work with Jobcentre Plus and its partners through a Local Employment Partnership. Eligible customers include lone parents, people with disabilities, those who have been unemployed for six months or more, and other jobless people who face relative labour market disadvantage.

Source:

Local Employment Partnership MI System.

Employment: Disabled People

John Howell: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what mechanisms his Department have put in place to ensure that regional contracting arrangements of the Improving Disability Employment Advisory Service programme will work in conjunction with local initiatives. [262640]

Jonathan Shaw: As set out in the White Paper, 'Raising expectations and increasing support: reforming welfare for the future', new specialist disability employment provision will be introduced in 2010. Local stakeholders have been involved in the development of requirements and we will expect bidders to demonstrate how they have taken account of any relevant local initiatives. We will continue to engage with local stakeholders as appropriate throughout the contracting process.

John Howell: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) whether *(a)* employment and support allowance and *(b)* jobseekers' allowance claimants who have been referred to the Improving Disability Employment Advisory Service programme will be expected to attend regular meetings with their Pathways to Work, Jobcentre Plus and Flexible New Deal provider; [262642]

(2) whether mandatory activity under *(a)* the employment and support allowance and *(b)* jobseekers' allowance will take precedence over the Improving Disability Employment Advisory Service (IDEAS) programme; and whether participation in the IDEAS programme will count as work-related activity. [262643]

Jonathan Shaw: Employment and support allowance and jobseekers allowance claimants who have volunteered to participate in the new specialist disability employment programme will be expected to continue to satisfy the conditions under which they receive these allowances, including attending regular meetings with their Personal Adviser as appropriate.

If the Work Focussed Interview clashes with an Improving Disability Employment Advisory Service session, the adviser may decide to defer the Work Focussed Interview to enable the customer to undertake their work-related activity. This decision should be made by the adviser following discussion between the adviser and customer.

Housing Benefit

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what percentage of housing benefit was paid directly to landlords in each of the last 12 months. [266728]

Kitty Ussher: This information is not currently available.

Jobcentre Plus

Mr. Burstow: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many formal notifications of redundancies were received by Jobcentre Plus from the Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform in *(a)* each region and *(b)* the London borough of Sutton in the last 12 months; and if he will make a statement. [260717]

Mr. McNulty: The administration of Jobcentre Plus is a matter for the acting chief executive of Jobcentre Plus, Mel Groves. I have asked him to provide the hon. Member with the information requested.

Letter from Mel Groves:

The Secretary of State has asked me to reply to your question asking how many formal notifications of redundancies were received by Jobcentre Plus from the Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform in (a) each region and (b) the London Borough of Sutton. This is something that falls within the responsibilities delegated to me as Acting Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus.

Employers have a statutory responsibility to notify the Insolvency Service, part of the Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform, when they propose to make 20 or more people redundant at one establishment within a period of 90 or fewer days. Those notifications are made by organisations to the Insolvency Service using form HR1. The Insolvency Service does not send these formal notifications of redundancies to Jobcentre Plus so therefore we are not able to provide you with the information you have requested.

It is important to note that each Jobcentre Plus region uses a range of information to identify employers who are making, or considering, redundancies. One of these sources is headline information provided by the Insolvency Service concerning employers. Our objective is to ensure that the support of our Rapid Response Service is offered whenever it might be appropriate for the employer and employees concerned.

We launched our enhanced Rapid Response Service on 12 November 2008. Since then, over 1,000 employers have accepted offers of Rapid Response Service support.

Jobcentre Plus: Rural Areas

Mr. Cox: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what recent assessment he has made of the effects of recent Jobcentre Plus closures on the accessibility of Jobcentre Plus branches for people living in rural areas. [266070]

Mr. McNulty: The administration of Jobcentre Plus is a matter for the acting chief executive of Jobcentre Plus, Mel Groves. I have asked him to provide the hon. Member with the information requested.

Letter from Mel Groves:

The Secretary of State has asked me to reply to your question asking what recent assessment he has made of the effects of recent Jobcentre Plus closures on the accessibility of Jobcentre Plus branches for people living in rural areas. This is something that falls within the responsibilities delegated to me as Acting Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus.

Jobcentre Plus inherited around 1,500 offices from the merger of the Benefits Agency and the Employment Service in 2002. We have modernised our Jobcentre network to improve customer service, rationalising our estate to provide excellent coverage with integrated customer facing offices, at the same time reducing cost to the tax payer. We remain the largest office network in Government with 741 modern Jobcentres. These offices are supported by 31 modern contact centres and 79 main benefit processing centres.

In planning our Jobcentre network the Jobcentre Plus Customer Service Directors regularly review their service delivery plans to ensure optimum provision of service for all customers. They will take into account the network's accessibility, including time taken to travel from rural areas. Where appropriate, we will deliver out reach services, for instance, aimed at lone parents and others who may find travel difficult.

The great majority of our services (in common with most large, modern organisations) are now also delivered through the telephone and internet. For example, to give customers more convenient access, we have more than half a million vacancies on-line at any time (our website receives close to one million job searches every working day), and new claims to benefit are predominantly taken by telephone. Our customer facing services have been brought together in a more coherent and integrated network and I believe Jobcentre Plus is well-placed to respond to the needs of our customers wherever they live.

Jobseeker's Allowance

Ms Buck: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many *(a)* jobseeker's allowance (JSA) claimants and *(b)* JSA claimants with children have been subject to benefit sanctions in each quarter since the beginning of 2007. [261864]

Mr. McNulty: The information for all JSA claimants is not available broken down in each quarter. The information is available for each month and is provided in the following table. Information on JSA claimants with children subject to sanctions is not collated centrally, either quarterly or monthly, and is therefore available only at a disproportionate cost.

Total number of jobseeker's allowance claimants who have been subject to benefit sanctions

	Varied length	Fixed length	Entitlement decision
2007			
January	5,900	3,860	17,220
February	5,610	3,870	16,810
March	5,720	4,410	19,350
April	4,540	3,830	16,850
May	5,090	4,080	17,730
June	4,730	4,020	19,070
July	5,150	4,140	20,000
August	5,640	4,400	20,070
September	5,000	3,660	17,090
October	5,850	4,040	19,400
November	6,040	4,000	19,840
December	4,520	2,990	11,110
2008			
January	6,530	3,960	18,750
February	5,990	4,210	19,990
March	5,980	3,640	16,750
April	6,080	4,100	19,820
May	6,110	3,910	19,550
June	5,910	4,160	20,630
July	6,570	4,300	22,150
August	5,580	3,720	19,170
September	6,220	4,370	21,380
October	6,580	4,300	22,540

Notes:

1. The figures above are rounded to the nearest 10.
2. The numbers above are the number of referrals that had an adverse decision in each month.
3. Varied length sanctions are where the JSA claimant has their payment temporarily suspended for anything up to 26 weeks.
4. Fixed length sanctions are where the JSA claimant has their payment temporarily suspended for either 2, 4 or 26 weeks.
5. Entitlement decisions are where the JSA claimant has their entitlement to JSA ended.
6. This information is published at the DWP website http://www.dwp.gov.uk/asd/tabtool.asp

Source:

DWP Information Directorate: JSA sanctions and disallowance decisions statistics database

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people claiming jobseeker's allowance in each local authority area had been claiming it for a period of *(a)* up to three months, *(b)* between three and six months, *(c)* between six and 12 months, *(d)* between 12 and 24 months and *(e)* more than 24 months in each month since September 2008. [262572]

Mr. McNulty: The information has been placed in the Library.

Local Housing Allowance

Andrew Selous: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many recipients of local housing allowance in the private rented sector have their benefits paid directly to landlords under *(a)* the eight week rent arrears procedures and *(b)* local authority determined vulnerability criteria. [266151]

Kitty Ussher: This information is not currently available.

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what expenditure his Department has incurred on the local housing allowance scheme since it was introduced. [266304]

Kitty Ussher: This information is not currently available.

Willie Rennie: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people in each region have received local housing allowance in each of the last three years. [268134]

Kitty Ussher: This information is not currently available.

Willie Rennie: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) how much housing benefit has been paid out by local authorities in each region under *(a)* local reference rents and *(b)* local housing allowance in each of the last four years; [268136]

(2) what proportion of the funds distributed by local authorities in each region as *(a)* local reference rents and *(b)* local housing allowance in each of the last four years was paid in respect of accommodation in the private rented sector. [268137]

Kitty Ussher: Not all of the information requested is available. Such information as is available is presented in the table.

The local housing allowance did not commence national roll-out until April 2008 and outturn expenditure data for 2008-09 is not yet available. We do have expenditure data on local housing allowance in the local authorities which piloted the scheme prior to national roll-out and this is presented in the following table. There were nine pilot authorities in 2004-05, and 18 from 2005-06. There are some differences between the model of local housing allowance that was piloted and the model that was rolled out in April 2008.

Regional local housing allowance expenditure in pilot areas

£ million

	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08
North East	0	0	0	0
North West	27	51	61	68
Yorkshire and the Humber	14	61	65	70
East Midlands	0	0	0	0

Regional local housing allowance expenditure in pilot areas

£ million

	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08
West Midlands	14	23	28	32
East of England	0	7	10	11
London	24	66	79	96
South East	54	60	66	69
South West	6	9	11	11
Wales	6	14	16	17
Scotland	35	39	43	47
Great Britain	199	332	379	422

Note:
Figures may not sum due to rounding
Source:
Local authority subsidy claims

Expenditure on cases assessed under the local reference rent currently cannot be separately identified.

All of the expenditure on local housing allowance is for housing in the private rented sector.

Almost all of the expenditure on cases assessed under the local reference rent is for housing in the private sector. Further estimates of expenditure on housing benefit for private rented accommodation are available on the Department's website at:

www.dwp.gov.uk/asd/asd4/HBandCTB_expenditure.asp

Mortgages: Government Assistance

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what rate of interest his Department used in calculations of entitlements and payments under the Support for Mortgage Interest scheme in each of the last 12 months; and what rate it plans to use in each of the next three months. [266306]

Kitty Ussher: I refer the hon. Member to the written answer given to the hon. Member for Northavon (Steve Webb) on 4 March 2009, *Official Report*, column 1614, and to the written answers given to the right hon. Member for Maidenhead (Mrs. May) on 25 March 2009, *Official Report*, columns 456-57W.

Help is provided towards the interest on mortgages (known as Support for Mortgage Interest (SMI)) as part of income support, income-based jobseeker's allowance, income-related employment and support allowance, and state pension credit.

SMI is calculated using a standard interest rate. The following standard rates were used in the calculation of SMI over the period requested:

	Percentage
From 16 March 2008	6.83
From 15 May 2008	6.58
From 16 November 2008	6.08

On 24 November 2008 the Chancellor announced that the standard interest rate would be maintained at 6.08 per cent. for six months.

We will publicise any further changes to the interest rate in due course.

Poverty: Children

Kerry McCarthy: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what assessment he has made of the effectiveness in reducing child poverty of the measures introduced in the 2008 Budget. [267038]

Kitty Ussher: Budget 2008 committed an additional £950 million to tackling child poverty by 2010-11. It included a number of measures that will make significant progress to further reducing child poverty, including increasing the first child rate of child benefit to £20 a week from April 2009 (brought forward to January 2009 in the 2008 pre-Budget report), disregarding child benefit in calculating income for housing and council taxi benefit from October 2009 and increasing the child element of the child tax credit by £50 a year above indexation from April 2009.

Taken together, measures announced since Budget 2007 will lift around a further 500,000 children out of poverty.

Budget 2008 also included introducing child poverty pilots to draw on new ideas to tackle child poverty over the long-term. A suite of nine pilots are in various stages of set-up or early delivery, and interim evidence is expected in early 2010.

Social Security Benefits

Steve Webb: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) what the average number of days taken to process new *(a)* council tax benefit and *(b)* housing benefit claims was in each local authority area in each month of the last two years; [264654]

(2) how many outstanding *(a)* council tax benefit and *(b)* housing benefit claims there were in each local authority area in each quarter of the last two years. [264655]

Kitty Ussher: I refer the hon. Member to the written answer I gave him on 5 February 2009, *Official Report*, column 1419W.

Vacancies: Cleveland

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many job vacancies were advertised in the Middlesbrough, South and East Cleveland job centre in each month of 2008; and for what average length of time each job was advertised. [265134]

Mr. McNulty: The information is in the table, and provides separate data for unfilled and notified vacancies to give the fullest picture of the number of Jobcentre Plus vacancies in any particular constituency. The labour market is dynamic and many new vacancies are filled so quickly they do not appear in the statistics for live unfilled vacancies, which are based on a snapshot of the vacancies available on a particular day.

The coverage of these figures relates only to Jobcentre Plus notified and unfilled vacancies. Many vacancies come up through other recruitment channels and the proportion accounted for by Jobcentre Plus is likely to vary over time, according to the occupation of the vacancy and industry of the employer, and by local area. Estimates of the number of unfilled job vacancies across the economy as a whole are available from the monthly ONS Vacancy Survey, based on a sample of some 6,000 enterprises. However, the ONS survey is currently designed to provide national estimates only.

In addition, it should be noted that parliamentary constituencies are often a poor match to the area covered by the local labour market. The number and range of jobs available to people within normal travel to work distances often extends well beyond immediate constituency boundaries.

Total number of job vacancies advertised in the Middlesbrough South and East Cleveland parliamentary constituency

Date	*Notified vacancies live*	*Unfilled vacancies*	*Median duration*
January 2008	86	82	41.0
February 2008	449	109	19.3
March 2008	105	132	36.9
April 2008	103	152	40.4
May 2008	233	140	33.7
June 2008	339	203	26.4
July 2008	109	170	36.3
August 2008	223	152	34.9
September 2008	203	140	25.8
October 2008	181	100	27.0
November 2008	288	124	25.3
December 2008	166	109	27.2

Notes:
1. Data are unrounded.
2. Changes to Jobcentre Plus vacancy handling procedures have led to a major discontinuity in the vacancy statistics pre and post May 2006. Consequently, care should be taken in interpreting time-series data.
3. Notified vacancies. Monthly data on the inflow of newly notified vacancies to Jobcentre Plus.
4. The stocks of Live unfilled vacancies reflect more accurately job opportunities available via Jobcentre Plus. In the case of unfilled vacancies, use of the figures on live vacancies is recommended (i.e. excluding suspended vacancies), and this is the default option. Live vacancies may still include some vacancies which have already been filled or are otherwise no longer open.
5. To provide a geographic breakdown, in most cases the postcode of the vacancy is used to allocate the vacancy to a local area. Where this is missing or invalid, the employers' postcode or the postcode of the local Jobcentre Plus office is used.
6. These figures are published at www.nomisweb.co.uk
7. The median duration is measured in days between notification and closure.
8. For most purposes, the median will give a more representative measure of the average duration a mean figure tends to be distorted by a small number of vacancies that have very long durations.
Source:
Jobcentre Plus Labour Market System

Vocational Training

Mike Wood: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) how many drug users have secured paid employment through progress2work; how many have maintained this employment for six months or more; and how many have claimed benefits again within *(a)* six months and *(b)* 12 months; [261076]

(2) how many drug users have secured unpaid employment through progress2work; and how many have maintained this employment for six months or more. [261077]

Mr. McNulty: In 2007-08, 12,850 people joined progress2work, and 2,700 went on to find work. 1,450 were still recorded as being in work after 13 weeks. We do not record how many are still in work at six months or how many return to benefit after a period of employment.

Details of voluntary work undertaken by customers during the progress2work programme and subsequent to participation are not recorded.

Winter Fuel Payments

Steve Webb: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate he has made of his Department's expenditure on cold weather payments in 2008-09. [249443]

Kitty Ussher: The information for the whole of 2008-09 is not yet available.

A cold weather payment is made to an eligible customer when the average temperature has been recorded as, or is forecast to be, 0° C or below over seven consecutive days at the weather station linked to the customer's postcode.

Based on the temperature criterion having been met up to 12 March 2009, the estimated expenditure will be £209 million.

ENERGY AND CLIMATE CHANGE

Carbon Emissions

Greg Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what estimate he has made of the proportion of carbon dioxide emissions arising in the UK attributable to burning *(a)* coal and *(b)* gas in each year since 1990. [266719]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: Estimates of carbon dioxide emissions from fossil fuel use in the UK were published by DECC on 26 March 2009. These estimates can be found at

http://www.berr-gov.uk/files/file50484.xls

The following table shows the breakdown of these estimates by fuel type for the years 1990 to 2007, together with provisional estimates for 2008.

CO2 emissions by fuel

Million tonnes of carbon dioxide

	1990	*1991*	*1992*	*1993*	*1994*	*1995*	*1996*	*1997*	*1998*	*1999*
Gas	110.1	118.5	119.5	134.6	144.4	152.9	177.7	181.9	188.9	202.2
Oil	209.5	209.6	208.0	208.5	204.0	199.0	203.5	195.6	191.9	187.3
Coal and other solid fuels	250.6	250.9	235.0	205.1	192.4	178.2	170.4	152.1	151.5	134.0
Non-fuel	22.8	21.2	20.5	19.8	21.2	23.1	23.7	21.9	21.3	19.5
Total	592.9	600.2	583.0	568 .0	561 .9	553 .1	575 .3	551 .6	553 .6	543 .0

Million tonnes of carbon dioxide

	2000	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*2008p*
Gas	207.2	207.5	205.1	206.2	209.3	202.6	191.0	194.1	199.0
Oil	184.5	186.5	183.7	183.2	186.1	189.5	186.9	184.8	180.1
Coal and other solid fuels	140.8	150.4	138.9	149.8	144.2	146.3	156.9	147.0	135.9

Million tonnes of carbon dioxide

	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008p
Non-fuel	18.6	18.1	17.2	17.1	16.3	16.7	16.2	16.7	16.7
Total	551.1	562.5	544.9	556.2	555.9	553.2	551.1	542.6	531.8

Greg Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what recent assessment he has made of progress towards meeting the target of reducing Government estate carbon dioxide emissions by 12.5 per cent. by 2010-11, relative to 1999-2000 levels. [266781]

Angela Eagle: I have been asked to reply.

Government are committed to achieving a reduction in the carbon dioxide emissions from its estate of 12.5 per cent. by 2010-11. Progress against this target is reported annually in the Sustainable Development in Government report. The latest assessment of performance, published in December 2008, shows that Government had made a reduction of 6.3 per cent. by 2007-08, an improvement of 2 per cent. from the previous year. The Government delivery plan for sustainable operations and procurement shows that Government have plans in place to achieve the further reductions required by 2010-11.

Carbon Emissions: Canada

Rob Marris: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change if he will hold discussions with his Canadian federal and provincial counterparts on the quantity of carbon dioxide emissions resulting from the extraction of oil from the tar sands in Alberta, Canada. [263276]

Joan Ruddock: My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State will be discussing how to limit global carbon dioxide emissions to prevent damaging climate change with all key international partners this year, including Canadian counterparts, given the importance the UK places on securing a global deal at Copenhagen in December.

The UK appreciates that every country's position and needs are different, which is why we support the principle of 'common but differentiated' responsibilities—but we nevertheless will be urging all partners to take as much action as they are able to address the threat of damaging climate change.

The Federal Government have drafted legislation to introduce targets based on carbon capture and storage (CCS) on oil sands facilities and electricity power stations, which states that new plants from 2012 must be capture ready and using full CCS from 2018. In December 2008 Canada and the UK signed a Joint Statement on CCS, agreeing to work closely to develop and promote CCS technologies. This will involve exchanging experience and information on the development of regulatory frameworks, mechanisms for deploying CCS projects in developed and developing countries and the demonstration of key elements of the CCS chain. We will also share the learning developed from our respective commercial-scale demonstration projects.

Coal Fired Power Stations

Paddy Tipping: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what progress has been made on preparations for a public consultation on a UN framework for coal-fired power stations; and if he will make a statement. [265968]

Mr. Mike O'Brien *[holding answer 24 March 2009]:* The proposals on a new framework for coal-fired power stations will go beyond the proposals in last year's consultation on carbon capture readiness. It is too early to go into further details.

Coal: Pollution Control

Greg Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change pursuant to the answer of 23 February 2009, *Official Report*, columns 294-5W, on coal: pollution control, on what date his Department committed £2.2 million to an oxy-fuel combustion carbon capture and storage project; how much has been spent to date; and if he will make a statement. [266826]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: Doosan Babcock Energy Ltd was sent an Offer Letter Contract on 1 November 2007 by the then Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform stating an agreement to provide grant funding of some £2.2 million towards the development of an Oxy-fuel combustion project. £301,374.60 of that grant has been spent to date.

Committee on Radioactive Waste Management

Greg Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what recent assessment he has made of the work of the Committee on Radioactive Waste Management. [266784]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: During 2009 CoRWM is expected to deliver three reports to Sponsoring Ministers covering interim storage arrangements, research and development and the geological disposal process more generally; in each case setting out the Committee's recommendations on these issues. These reports and responses from Government will be made available in respective Parliaments/Assemblies. We will assess these reports and recommendations when we receive them.

Under its terms of reference, CoRWM is required to agree with its Sponsoring Ministers (Department of Energy and Climate Change and the devolved administrations) a three-year rolling programme and budget for its work on an annual basis. The Committee is also required to submit an annual report to Ministers by 30 April each year on the delivery of the agreed work programme.

Departmental Buildings

Greg Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what the average daily consumption of *(a)* electricity and *(b)* gas of each of the buildings occupied by staff of his Department is. [257596]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The average daily consumption of DECC's London headquarters in 3 Whitehall Place is 5685 kWh of electricity and 2805 kWh of gas. The average daily consumption of DECC's offices in Atholl House, Aberdeen, is estimated as 377 kWh of electricity and 439 kWh of gas.

Departmental Internet

Greg Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what his most recent estimate is of the cost to his Department of the Offshore Energy Strategic Environmental Assessment website. [266670]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The cost of the strategic environmental assessment website for the current financial year totals £18,135.00 excluding VAT.

Departmental Public Appointments

Mr. Maude: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change which of the public appointments for which his Department is responsible are due to be *(a)* renewed and *(b)* filled in the next 24 months; what the (i) remit, (ii) salary, (iii) political restriction, (iv) eligibility requirement and (v) timetable for each appointment is; and what records his Department keeps in respect of such appointments. [254238]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: Information on appointments made by the Department will be published in its annual report which will be available on its website in due course. Vacancies may be advertised on the Cabinet Office Public Appointments website at:

www.publicappointments.gov.uk

The process for making a public appointment, including guidance on political activity and eligibility criteria, follows the Cabinet Office publication "Making and Managing Public Appointments". For appointments regulated by the Commissioner for Public Appointments, the appointments process also complies with the "Code of Practice for Ministerial Appointments to Public Bodies". Copies are in the Libraries of the House.

Julia Goldsworthy: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change which former *(a)* hon. Members who left Parliament since 1997 and *(b)* Members of the House of Lords from each party have been appointed to positions on public bodies within his Department's responsibility; and who made each appointment. [267538]

Mr. Mike O'Brien *[holding answer 27 March 2009]*: None.

Departmental Public Expenditure

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what *(a)* capital funds and *(b)* resource funds his Department has brought forward from its (i) 2009-10 and (ii) 2010-11 budgets for use in (A) 2008-09 and (B) 2009-10; and what schemes this funding is being used to support. [267399]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The Department of Energy and Climate Change brought forward £50 million of capital expenditure on the Warm Front programme from 2010-11 into 2009-10 and received additional funding of £50 million for 2008-09 and £50 million for 2009-10, also on the Warm Front programme, as announced in the 2008 pre-Budget report. No resource funds have been brought forward.

Electricity Generation: Licensing

Greg Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how much revenue from licence fees was received by Ofgem in each of the last 10-years. [266783]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: Ofgem was established in 1999. The following table shows the total revenue received by Ofgem from licence fees during the years audited to date:

	Total Ofgem revenue (£ million)
1999-2000	47.510
2000-01	45.146
2001-02	32.865
2002-03	33.197
2003-04	32.660
2004-05	32.102
2005-06	31.911
2006-07	34.783
2007-08	34.700

Electricity Supply: Finance

Greg Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how much was collected in *(a)* transmission use of systems and *(b)* distribution use of systems charges in each public electricity supplier area in each of the last five years. [266618]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: According to National Grid the following amounts were collected in transmission use of system charges (the revenues for 2004-05 were for England and Wales only).

	£ million
2004-05	862
2005-06	1,054
2006-07	1,153
2007-08	1,243
2008-09	1,355

The following table shows the distribution use of system charges by distribution network operator area.

DNO	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*	*£ million* *Total*
Central Networks West plc (CN West)	266.0	264.8	246.7	277.7	278.1	1333.3
Central Networks East plc (CN East)	276.3	274.4	255.5	274.3	287.9	1368.4
Northern Electric Distribution Ltd (CE NEDL)	178.7	159.7	170.8	170.0	186.7	865.8
Yorkshire Electricity Distribution plc (CE YEDL)	226.8	229.8	230.1	234.5	257.8	1179.0
EDF Energy Networks (LPN) plc (EDFE LPN)	230.7	240.3	241.8	264.7	278.8	1256.2
EDF Energy Networks (SPN) plc (EDFE SPN)	174.3	165.4	174.8	186.7	201.9	903.1
EDF Energy Networks (EPN) plc (EDFE EPN)	329.8	316.2	316.3	336.3	384.6	1683.2
Electricity North West Ltd (ENW)	235.5	222.6	234.6	254.9	282.9	1230.5
Scottish Hydro-Electric Power Distribution plc (SHEPD)	122.5	132.4	144.9	150.3	163.5	713.6
Southern Electric Power Distribution plc (SEPD)	324.2	321.8	364.5	372.0	392.8	1775.3
SP Distribution Ltd (SPD)	278.6	278.2	323.1	320.5	319.5	1520.0
SP Manweb plc (SPM)	171.0	186.3	212.2	206.9	182.8	959.2
Western Power Distribution (South West) plc (WPD S West)	186.0	183.6	199.56	197.13	220.5	986.8
Western Power Distribution (South Wales) plc (WPD S Wales)	141.8	141.4	161.37	160.11	163.97	768.7
Totals	3142.2	3116.9	3276.2	3405.9	3601.6	16542.9

Electricity: Government Departments

Greg Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what proportion of electricity supplied to the Government Estate was drawn from combined heat and power sources classified as being of good quality in each of the last five years. [267010]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The Sustainable Development Commission (SDC) monitors progress towards the target of Government Departments sourcing at least 15 per cent. of electricity from Combined Heat and Power (CHP) by 31 March 2010. Data available on the SDC website cover only the two years 2006-07 and 2007-08. These show that the proportion increased from 5.8 per cent. in 2006-07 to 8.7 per cent. in 2007-08. These percentages cover all CHP and not just that proportion certified as good quality.

Energy

Simon Hughes: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how many meetings he and his officials had with representatives of *(a)* the nuclear energy and nuclear waste industry, *(b)* the combined heat and power industry and *(c)* the renewable energy industry between January 2007 and October 2008. [264517]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: Ministers and officials have regular meetings in the course of business with representatives of the nuclear energy and nuclear waste industry, the combined heat and power industry, and the renewable energy industry.

The Government are committed to the development of low carbon energy which will reduce our carbon emissions, improve our energy security, and improve our efficiency in the use of fossil fuels. We are now the second most attractive market in the world for investment in nuclear power and we are committed to sourcing 15 per cent. of our energy—up to a third of our electricity and significant percentages of our heating and transportation—from renewable fuels by 2020.

Energy Supply

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what percentage of UK energy demand was met by energy generated within the UK in each year for which figures are available. [263098]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The following table shows electricity generated by UK generators, total UK demand for electricity and total UK demand for energy for each year since 1998 as well as the percentages of energy and electricity demand.

	GWh			*Percentage*	
	Electricity generated	*UK electricity demand*	*UK energy consumption*	*Electricity generation as a proportion of electricity demand*	*Electricity generation as a proportion of energy demand*
1998	362,702	375,170	2,207,176	96.7	16.4
1999	368,152	382,396	2,206,746	96.3	16.7
2000	377,068	391,243	2,235,274	96.4	16.9
2001	384,786	395,185	2,231,041	97.4	17.2
2002	387,246	395,661	2,194,732	97.9	17.6
2003	398,209	400,369	2,215,015	99.5	18.0
2004	393,868	401,357	2,237,275	98.1	17.6
2005	398,313	406,633	2,243,997	98.0	17.8
2006	398,824	406,341	2,195,988	98.2	18.2
2007	396,456	401,671	2,121,673	98.7	18.7

Note:
Energy consumption in this table is final consumption plus energy industry use plus losses.
Source:
Digest of UK Energy Statistics 2008, Tables 1.1 and 5.2.

Energy: Prices

Alan Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change (1) which energy suppliers have adopted Ofgem's voluntary guidelines to offer a social tariff as favourable as their lowest priced tariff offered to customers in that area; [262529]

(2) how many households are on each of the *(a)* discounted tariffs and *(b)* social tariffs recognised by Ofgem offered by each supplier; and what proportion of each supplier's customers each figure represents; [262530]

(3) what percentage of turnover each energy supplier is contributing to *(a)* social assistance programmes and *(b)* social tariffs recognised by Ofgem. [262531]

Mr. Mike O'Brien *[holding answer 16 March 2009]*: The big six major energy suppliers all offer social tariffs. Ofgem monitors the suppliers' social programmes on behalf of Government. In its latest report published in December 2008 for the period 2007-08, Ofgem confirmed that SSE, ScottishPower and E.ON had social tariffs in place that were consistent with the revised definition of a social tariff and that the rest of the suppliers were considering their position. A copy of the report can be found at:

http://www.ofgem.gov.uk/Sustainability/SocAction/Suppliers/CSR/Documents1/Monitoring%20Suppliers%20Social%20Spend%20171.08.pdf

Ofgem will report formally on the suppliers' social programmes in the summer. The report will include information on whether existing social tariffs and any other new versions that have been introduced by the suppliers since its last report are or continue to be consistent with the revised definition of a social tariff.

In the same report, Ofgem gave the latest data on discounted and social tariffs for 2007-08. The number of customer accounts on social tariffs per supplier, using Ofgem's definition at that time, that a social tariff had to be as good as the supplier's standard direct debit tariff, was:

Supplier	*Tariff name*	*Total customers accounts*
British Gas	Essentials (Electricity)	113,584
	Essentials (Gas)	200,845
Total		314,429
EDF Energy	Energy Assist (Electricity)	46,130
	Energy Assist (Gas)	15,742
Total		61,872
E.ON	Social StayWarm (Electricity)	26,833
	Social StayWarm (Gas)	25,495
Total		52,328
npower	First Step (Electricity)	2,108
	First Step (Gas)	1,398
Total		3,506
Scottish Power[1]	—	—
SSE	EnergyPlus Care (Electricity)	15,282
	EnergyPlus Care (Gas)	11,077
Total		26,359
Total	Electricity	203,937
	Gas	254,557
	Total customer accounts	458,494

[1] Social tariff launched on 1 April 2008.

The latest available data on the total number of domestic customer accounts was reported by Ofgem in their Domestic Retail Market Report published in June 2007:

http://www.ofgem.gov.uk/Markets/RetMkts/Compet/Documents1/DRMR%20March%202007doc%20v9%20-%20FINAL.pdf

It reported that there were 21,567,261 gas and 26,917,561 electricity customer accounts, as at March 2006. Information on the number of each supplier's customer accounts is commercially sensitive and remains confidential between the Department and each energy supplier. Therefore information on what proportion of each supplier's customers' benefit from a social tariff cannot be made available.

Ofgem also reported that during 2007-08, British Gas and SSE were the only companies offering other discounted tariffs at a cost of £2.19 million and £138,000 respectively. Information on the number of customer accounts benefiting from these tariffs is not available.

Expenditure on social programmes and social tariffs during the same period was:

£ million

Supplier	*Total spend on social programmes*	*Spend on social tariffs*
British Gas	27.31	17.59
EDF Energy	7.37	4.25
E.ON	13.23	10.5
npower	3.95	0.23
Scottish Power	2.32	[1]—
SSE	2.93	1.3
Total	57.12	33.87

[1] Social tariff launched on 1 April 2008.

Information on what percentage of each supplier's turnover is spent on social programmes and social tariffs is not held by this Department or Ofgem.

Kingsnorth Power Station

Greg Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change pursuant to the Answer of 5 March 2009, *Official Report*, column 1805W, on Kingsnorth power station, what timetable has been set for *(a)* publication of the consultation document and *(b)* completion of the consultation process in respect of a new framework for coal-fired power stations. [267004]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The timetable for publication of a planned new consultation on a new framework for coal fired power stations has not yet been set.

Members: Correspondence

Sir Michael Spicer: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change when the Minister of State will reply to the letter from the hon. Member for West Worcestershire, dated 4 November 2008 and re-faxed to the Minister's office on 5 February 2009, on Flogas. [264877]

Mr. Mike O'Brien *[holding answer 20 March 2009]:* I responded to the hon. Member on 26 March 2009.

Natural Gas

Mr. Crabb: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what representations he has received on the potential costs and benefits of a public service obligation on utilities in respect of gas storage. [266865]

Mr. Mike O'Brien *[holding answer 26 March 2009]:* DECC has received a number of representations in recent months regarding the need for additional gas storage in the UK, however we are not aware of any specific representations regarding public service obligations.

Natural Gas: Prices

Greg Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change pursuant to the Answer to the hon. Member for Romford of 23 February 2009, *Official Report*, column 305W, on natural gas: prices, if he will publish the data on *(a)* spot and *(b)* future wholesale gas prices collected during 2008. [266827]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The UK System Average Price is freely available on National Grid's webpage. Forward wholesale price data for the UK and other European gas hubs, which are sourced from proprietary information providers, cannot be published under the terms of the licence agreements.

Data for US Henry Hub gas prices is available on a number of websites, including:

http://www.barchart.com/

DECC also produces assumptions for future trends in fossil fuel wholesale prices (including gas) up to 2030 which are used for modelling and other analytical work. This information is available on the following website:

http://www.berr.gov.uk/files/file46071.pdf

Greg Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change pursuant to the Answer to the hon. Member for Romford of 23 February 2009, *Official Report*, column 305W, on natural gas: prices, how many staff his Department employs to gather data on *(a)* spot and *(b)* future wholesale gas prices. [266828]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: One official is directly responsible, among other things, for collecting and compiling data on spot and forward UK, European and US gas prices.

A team of four DECC energy market economists is also responsible, among other things, for the production of the Department's assumptions for future trends in fossil fuel wholesale prices (including gas), in consultation with other DECC colleagues.

Natural Gas: Storage

Greg Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what the gas storage capacity of the UK was in each of the last 10-years. [266622]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The following table gives the working capacity of UK gas storage facilities at the start of October in each of the last 10-years.

	Capacity (billion cubic metres)
1999	3.5
2000	3.6
2001	3.7
2002	3.7
2003	4.0
2004	4.0
2005	4.2
2006	4.3
2007	4.3
2008	4.4

Source:
National Grid

Greg Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what gas storage facilities he expects to become operational in each of the next 10 years; and what the capacity of each is expected to be. [266623]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: National Grid's "Ten Year Statement", published in December 2008, identifies four commercial gas storage projects which are under development and scheduled for completion within the next five years.

Storage under development[1]

Storage Project	*Developer*	*Location*	*Space (bcm)*	*Gas Year*
Aldbrough	SSE / Statoil	E. Yorkshire	0.37	2008-09
Holford	E.ON	Cheshire	0.16	2010-11
Caythorpe	Centrica	E. Yorkshire	0.2	2011-12
Stublach	GDF Storage	Cheshire	0.4	2013-14
Total		~ 1 bcm		

[1] Source National Grid

Another 13 gas storage projects listed in the "Ten Year Statement" are at various stages of development. They are expected to be completed within the next decade, but do not have definitive dates for when they will become operational.

More information can be found on the National Grid website:

http://www.nationalgrid.com/uk/Gas/TYS/archive/tys08/tys08pdf.htm

Greg Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what obligations there are on gas supply companies to provide gas storage facilities. [266624]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: While there is no requirement on gas supply companies to provide gas storage facilities as such, licensed gas shippers (many of which are also suppliers) must balance the amount of gas that they take off the system with the amount that they put into it every 24 hours and face significant financial penalties for any imbalance.

Gas storage is one of the important tools available to gas shippers to achieve this daily balance. Other tools include supply flows from the North sea, pipeline imports or LNG as well as demand side arrangements where customers opt to reduce their gas consumption as prices increase.

Nuclear Decommissioning Authority: Public Appointments

Greg Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change (1) what the reasons are for the time taken by the recruitment process for a permanent Chief Executive for the Nuclear Decommissioning Authority; [266605]

(2) what steps he is taking to expedite the appointment of a permanent Chief Executive for the Nuclear Decommissioning Authority; [266606]

(3) how many candidates have been interviewed as part of the recruitment process for a permanent Chief Executive for the Nuclear Decommissioning Authority; [266607]

(4) whether a shortlist of candidates has been drawn up as part of the recruitment process for a permanent Chief Executive for the Nuclear Decommissioning Authority; [266608]

(5) what the cost has been of the recruitment process for a permanent Chief Executive for the Nuclear Decommissioning Authority; [266609]

(6) when he expects a permanent Chief Executive for the Nuclear Decommissioning Authority to take up the appointment. [266610]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The process to recruit a new Chief Executive for the Nuclear Decommissioning Authority, which is the responsibility of the NDA Board under the Energy Act 2004, is ongoing and the NDA hopes to conclude the process in the near future. Inquiries about the detail of the process should be directed to the NDA.

Nuclear Liabilities Fund

Mr. Weir: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change (1) what the *(a)* final severance package and *(b)* pension arrangements were for the previous Chief Executive of the Nuclear Liabilities Fund; [267064]

(2) what the annual salary of the Chief Executive of the Nuclear Liabilities Fund was in each of the last 10-years. [267069]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The Nuclear Liabilities Fund does not have a chief executive. The directors are the sole representatives of the organisation. The published accounts of the fund are available from its registered offices at 16 Rothesay Place, Edinburgh EH3 7SQ.

Nuclear Power Stations: Decommissioning

Mr. Weir: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what his most recent estimate of the cost of decommissioning the Hunterston A nuclear power station is; and when the site is expected to become available for alternative use. [265948]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The most recent estimate of the cost of decommissioning Hunterston A nuclear power station (£667 million discounted) is set out in the Nuclear Decommissioning Authority's annual report and accounts for 2007-08. The site is not expected to be available for alternative use until after decommissioning is completed, which the NDA currently estimate will be 2080.

Mr. Weir: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what his most recent estimate of the cost of decommissioning the Chapelcross nuclear power station is; and when the site is expected to become available for alternative use. [265949]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The most recent estimate of the cost of decommissioning Chapelcross nuclear power station (£775 million discounted) is set out in the Nuclear Decommissioning Authority's annual report and accounts 2007-08. The site is not expected to be available for alternative use until after decommissioning is completed, which the NDA currently estimate will be 2095.

Mr. Weir: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what his most recent estimate of the cost of decommissioning Dounreay nuclear power station is; and when the site is expected to become available for alternative use. [265950]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The most recent estimate of the cost of decommissioning the Dounreay nuclear site (£2,410 million discounted) is set out in the Nuclear Decommissioning Authority's annual report and accounts 2007-08. It is possible that areas of the site will be available for alternative use following achievement of the interim end state in 2025, subject to appropriate safety and environmental clearance.

Nuclear Trust

Greg Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how many staff in his Department are engaged in work arising from his Department's interest in the Nuclear Trust. [266714]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: While a number of staff in my Department, and in the Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform, are engaged in work arising from my Department's interest in the Nuclear Trust, none are engaged on this full-time, and in total the amount of work amounts to less than the equivalent of one full-time post.

Power Stations: EC Action

Greg Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what recent assessment he has made of the likely effects on numbers of power stations of implementation of the EU Large Combustion Plants Directive in each of the next 10 years; and if he will make a statement. [267008]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: Under the Large Combustion Plants Directive (LCPD) nine 'opted out' coal and oil-fired plants are required to close by the end of 2015, or when they have used up their quota of 20,000 running hours, whichever is sooner. These power stations have a combined capacity of approximately 12 GW (8.0 GW coal and 4 GW oil).

The rate at which these opted out power stations use their quota of 20,000 running hours is a commercial decision for the management of the affected plants. It is therefore not possible to say exactly when the affected power stations will close.

Public Opinion

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how much has been spent by *(a)* his Department, *(b)* its agencies and *(c)* its non-departmental public bodies on (i) opinion polling, (ii) focus groups and (iii) other forms of market research since its inception; what such surveys have been commissioned; and what the purpose is of each. [261276]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The Department *(a)* has spent £8,788 on (ii) focus groups, and a total of £177,161 on (iii) other forms of market research since its inception. (ii) refers to a round of creative development research to test the efficacy of 'DIY' as a key message to encourage home insulation, as part of the Act On CO2 marketing campaign. (iii) accounts for the combined costs of October 2008 to March 2009 costs for our ongoing campaign tracking survey which assesses awareness, understanding and impact on behaviour change. It also accounts for a separate piece of research to assess usability and areas of improvement for the Act On CO2 website.

This information is not held centrally for agencies or non-departmental public bodies, and could be collated only at disproportionate cost.

Renewable Energy

Mr. Andrew Turner: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change with reference to paragraph 4.5.20 of the UK Renewable Energy Strategy Consultation, what assessment he has made of the likely effects on levels of employment in the fossil fuel sector of the implementation of the proposed measures to increase the relative costs of non-renewable heating. [263991]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: No estimates have yet been made.

Sellafield: Safety

Greg Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what recent assessment his Department has made of safety procedures at Sellafield. [266786]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The H[illegible]Safety Executive (HSE) is the statutory safety re[illegible]r the Sellafield site. With regard to nuclear safety, HSE's Nuclear Installations Inspectorate (NII) continually undertakes regular inspections and assessments of safety procedures at Sellafield. These are undertaken by NII to satisfy itself that Sellafield Ltd, the holder of the nuclear site licence, complies with the conditions attached to that licence, as well as more general safety duties.

Sellafield: Security

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change with reference to the Prime Minister's speech on nuclear energy on 17 March 2009, how the £70 million spent on security at Sellafield break down between budget headings since 2003; and what materials will be stored in the proposed storage facility. [265593]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: Following the events of 9/11 a comprehensive review was carried out on the security and emergency arrangements at the Sellafield site. The outcome of the review was a programme of enhancements, which included projects on: Risk Reduction; for enhanced physical security arrangements for the more sensitive facilities, Risk Mitigation; for enhanced contingency planning, which included the provision of aircraft style Fire Tenders and supporting equipment, and Risk Removal; for the consolidation of material, which entailed the transfer of nuclear material to more robust modern stores.

The approximate breakdown of the costs associated with these projects is as follows:

The Risk Reduction projects account for 40 per cent. of the costs;

The Risk Mitigation projects account for 20 per cent.; and

The Risk Removal projects account for 40 per cent.

The storage facility mentioned is the Sellafield Product Residue Store which will be used for the safe and secure storage of plutonium bearing materials and residues.

Solar Power: Research

Mrs. Curtis-Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how much funding his Department and its predecessor have allocated to research and development of photovoltaic processes as an alternative energy source in each year since 1995; and what use his Department makes of photovoltaic technology. [260886]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The Government have allocated the amounts mentioned below to research and development of photovoltaic processes as an alternative energy source since 1997. We do not have the information relating to 1995 and 1996 and the cost to obtain the information would be disproportionate.

Research Councils energy R&D expenditure

£000

	Solar	Photovoltaic
1997-98	1,440	2,255
1998-99	1,286	3,002
1999-2000	1,076	2,760
2000-01	1,134	2,992
2001-02	1,130	3,536
2002-03	1,157	2,770
2003-04	1,453	2,381
2004-05	1,690	2,676
2005-06	1,764	2,531
2006-07	1,473	2,308
2007-08	2,046	6,472

DTI/TSB renewable energy R&D expenditure

	Solar/PV (£000)
1996-97	1,889
1997-98	1,673
1998-99	1,007
1999-2000	1,283
2000-01	1,266
2001-02	1,522
2002-03	4,485
2003-04	3,131
2004-05	1,970
2005-06	1,782
2006-07	1,128
2007-08	1,352

Responsibility for renewable energy R&D was transferred to the Technology Strategy Board in 2007-08.

United Kingdom Atomic Energy Authority

Mr. Weir: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what the salary of the Chief Executive of the United Kingdom Atomic Energy Authority was in each of the last 10 years. [267060]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The following table lists the salary paid to the chief executive officers of UKAEA for the last 10 years, as noted in the relevant UKAEA Annual Report and Accounts. Note that the salary for Mr. Harrison in 2006-07 includes his service as Dounreay Director prior to becoming CEO.

	CEO	*Salary (£)*	*Note*
2007-08	Norman Harrison	163,000	—
2006-07	Norman Harrison	147,876	Transferred from Dounreay 1 September 2006
	Dipesh Shah	111,420	Ended 31 august 2006
2005-06	Dipesh Shah	174,963	—
2004-05	Dipesh Shah	169,160	
2003-04	Dipesh Shah	62,333	Appointed 15 November 2003
	John McKeown	86,181	Ended 10 November 2003
2002-03	John McKeown	131,674	—
2001-02	John McKeown	127,026	—
2000-01	John McKeown	113,332	—
1999-2000	John McKeown	102,848	—
1998-99	John McKeown	100,001	

Mr. Weir: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what the *(a)* final severance package and *(b)* pension arrangements were for the previous Chief Executive of the United Kingdom Atomic Energy Authority. [267061]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The previous chief executive, Mr Dipesh Shah, resigned from the UKAEA on 31 August 2006.

(a) All the arrangements associated with Mr Shah's resignation were included in the UKAEA annual report and accounts 2006-07, either in the figures for his salary (£111,420) or his pension as given as follows.

(b) The accrued pension and accrued transfer value for Mr Shah at the time of his resignation from the Board were £17,190 and £429,655 respectively. These pension entitlements are unfunded, and are included in the liability for unfunded pension arrangements noted in UKAEA's annual report and accounts. The transfer value does not represent sums paid or payable to Mr Shah, but represents a potential liability of the pension scheme or UKAEA.

BUSINESS, ENTERPRISE AND REGULATORY REFORM

Bank of Credit and Commerce International

Mr. Austin Mitchell: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what fees have been paid by his Department to liquidators, receivers, administrators and business advisers managing the liquidation of the Bank of Credit and Commerce International since 1991. [266269]

Mr. McFadden: The Insolvency Service, an executive agency of the Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform made no payments to liquidators, receivers, administrators and business advisers managing the liquidation of the Bank of Credit and Commerce International since 1991.

Carbon Emissions: Manpower

Simon Hughes: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what his most recent estimate is of the number of people employed in the manufacture of low-carbon products. [265871]

Ian Pearson: A recent study by Innovas entitled "Low Carbon and Environmental Goods and Services: an industry analysis", which was commissioned by the Department, reported that there were over 881,000 people employed in low carbon and environmental goods and services activities in the UK in 2007-08 (when including activities in the supply chain). Around 30 per cent. (272,000) of these jobs were in manufacturing activities.

The full report was published on 6 March 2009 and is available at:

http://www.berr.gov.uk/whatwedo/sectors/lowcarbon/lowcarbonstrategy/page50105.html

Consumers: Advisory Services

Lembit Öpik: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how much his Department has paid in grants to *(a)* Citizens Advice and *(b)* other independent consumer advice organisations in the last 12 months; and if he will make a statement. [264299]

Mr. Thomas: The information is as follows:

(a) Citizens Advice (covering England and Wales) received an annual grant in aid for 2008-09 of £21.47 million. They are also receiving, as a result of the pre-Budget

report in November 2008, an extra £2.5 million for the period November 2008 to March 2009.

Citizens Advice Scotland received an annual grant in aid for 2008-09 of £3.018 million. They are also receiving an extra grant of £371,000 for the same period to help finance "CASTLE" their electronic case recording system.

(b) The only direct grants to other independent consumer advice organisations paid by BERR is money for the Face-to-Face Debt Advice Project. BERR funded 10 projects led by Citizens Advice with £16.8 million, and six non-Citizens Advice led projects with £9.0 million in 2008-09.

Departmental Buildings

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what *(a)* grade II, *(b)* grade II* and *(c)* grade I listed buildings have been owned by his Department since its inception. [266851]

Mr. McFadden *[holding answer 26 March 2009]*: This Department does not own any buildings in the categories requested.

Dr. Pugh: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what buildings are owned or operated by his Department under a private finance initiative (PFI) arrangement; and which companies are involved with each such PFI arrangement. [267402]

Mr. McFadden: This Department does not own or operate any buildings under a Private Finance Initiative arrangement.

Departmental Correspondence

Mr. Andrew Turner: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many letters from hon. Members his Department received in *(a)* January and *(b)* February 2009; and how many letters from hon. Members received in 2008 were responded to (i) in less than two weeks, (ii) in between two weeks and one month, (iii) in between one and two months and (iv) in over two months. [265941]

Mr. McFadden: Cabinet Office, on an annual basis, publishes a report to Parliament on the performance of departments in replying to Members and Peers correspondence. The report for 2008 will be published shortly.

Departmental Domestic Visits

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many automobile factories the Secretary of State has visited on official business in the last 12 months. [261144]

Mr. McFadden: My predecessor, my right hon. Friend, the member for Barrow and Furness visited Morgan, BMW Mini, Jaguar Land Rover and Bentley. My right hon. Friend, the Secretary of State has visited Ford and Nissan.

Departmental Empty Property

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what estimate he has made of the change in the annual cost to his Department of maintaining the empty public buildings owned by his Department as a result of the April 2008 changes to empty property rate relief. [267137]

Mr. McFadden: This Department owns only one building, situated in Edinburgh, which is currently fully occupied. All other buildings are leased.

Departmental Energy

Greg Clark: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what steps have been taken by *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agencies to improve the thermal efficiency of their buildings in the last 12 months. [266747]

Mr. McFadden: This Department has recently undertaken a thermal efficiency survey on our 1 Victoria Street HQ Building and we are currently evaluating the outcome of the report which was received in mid-March 2009. The remaining parts of the HQ estate are not substantial enough to provide sufficient efficiency benefits to merit additional surveys. We shall be taking appropriate action to follow-up on the report in due course.

I have approached the chief executives of The Insolvency Service and Companies House and they will respond to the hon. Member directly.

Departmental Internet

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform pursuant to the answer of 12 February 2009, *Official Report*, columns 2288-9W, how many hits each of the websites maintained by his Department received in each of the last 12-months. [262835]

Mr. McFadden: In the period March 2008 – February 2009 page views for the core BERR website:

(www.berr.gov.uk)

were:

Date	*Page views*
March 2008	2,385,231
April 2008	2,443,158
May 2008	2,480,333
June 2008	2,694,709
July 2008	2,840,968
August 2008	2,372,979
September 2008	2,932,840
October 2008	3,648,423
November 2008	3,452,227
December 2008	2,584,510
January 2009	3,770,379
February 2009	3,236,679

Other websites operated by the Department are not centrally managed. Information on visitor numbers for these sites is not centrally held and could only be obtained at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Lobbying

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform whether Ministers in his Department received representations from *(a)* Lord Moonie, *(b)* Lord Taylor of Blackburn, *(c)* Lord Snape and *(d)* Lord Truscott in the last seven months. [255244]

Mr. McFadden: No.

Departmental Lost Pyoperty

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform whether officials in his Department who have lost laptops that were the property of his Department in the last 12 months have been charged the full value of replacement. [266229]

Mr. McFadden: It is not this Department's policy to charge its officials for accidental loss of equipment.

Departmental Public Appointments

Julia Goldsworthy: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform which former *(a)* hon. Members who have left Parliament since 1997 and *(b)* Members of the House of Lords from each party have been appointed to positions on public bodies within his Department's responsibility; and who made each appointment. [267540]

Mr. McFadden *[holding answer 27 March 2009]*: This information is not held centrally. Information on board membership and remuneration are published in individual bodies' annual reports and accounts.

Departmental Training

Grant Shapps: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many *(a)* staff and *(b)* ministerial away days were organised by his Department in each of the last five years; and what the cost of such events was in each year. [265109]

Mr. McFadden: Information about staff away days is not kept centrally and it could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

There was a ministerial away day in 2004 and a meeting of Ministers and senior officials in 2006.

Developing Countries: Overseas Companies

Greg Clark: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what assessment he has made of the effectiveness of the UK's regulatory regime for corporate social responsibility for British companies operating in developing countries. [267353]

Ian Pearson: My Department has not undertaken a recent assessment. However, we expect UK companies operating overseas to abide by national law, to develop their own corporate responsibility policies and follow the relevant UK and international guidelines.

Hindalco Industries

Mrs. Gillan: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what discussions *(a)* Ministers and *(b)* officials in his Department have had with Hindalco Industries Ltd in the last six months on matters on which Hindalco Industries have been engaged to advise his Department. [264567]

Mr. McFadden *[holding answer 19 March 2009]*: None.

Jaguar Land Rover: Job Creation

Mr. Hands: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many jobs he expects to be *(a)* safeguarded and *(b)* created by the £27 million made available to Jaguar Land Rover under the Grant for Business Investment Scheme; and whether his Department has sought undertakings from Jaguar Land Rover on the safeguarding and creation of jobs under the scheme. [265752]

Ian Pearson: The support of up to £27 million to be made available to Jaguar Land Rover under the Grant for Business Investment scheme is expected to help safeguard the existing 1,942 jobs at the Halewood facility and create an additional 229 manufacturing jobs, giving a total of 2,171 jobs by 2013. Payments under the scheme are made in instalments, typically over several years as jobs and capital expenditure targets are met. The support of up to £27 million, therefore, will be explicitly linked to the creation and maintenance of jobs at Halewood.

LDV: Finance

Mr. Jenkins: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what financial assistance his Department has provided to suppliers of the LDV Group. [264517]

Ian Pearson: Automotive manufacturers and suppliers with a turnover of at least £25 million recorded in their last published Report and Accounts and with a proposed investment of at least £5 million may in principle be eligible to apply for support under the Automotive Assistance programme. Automotive firms are also eligible for support from other Government programmes and details are available at:

http://www.realhelpnow.gov.uk/.

Lord Truscott

Greg Clark: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform on what dates *(a)* the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform, *(b)* Ministers in his Department and *(c)* officials have met Lord Truscott since the latter ceased to be a Government Minister. [256043]

Mr. McFadden *[holding answer 23 February 2009]*: My right hon. Friend the Member for Croydon, North (Malcolm Wicks), the then Energy Minister, met Lord Truscott once in February 2008.

Officials met Lord Truscott once in July 2008.

Members: Correspondence

Mr. Arbuthnot: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform when he plans to reply to the right hon. Member for North East Hampshire's letter of 26 November 2007 to the Lord Chancellor, transferred to his Department in December 2007, on his constituent, Miss Mollye Huddleston. [263229]

Mr. McFadden *[holding answer 12 March 2009]:* I responded to the right hon. Member on 20 March.

Minimum Wage

Jon Cruddas: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what recent assessment he has made of the effects of the economic downturn on the staffing requirements of each of the national minimum wage compliance teams. [264354]

Mr. McFadden: Worker complaints and case loads for each of the national minimum wage compliance teams are closely and continually monitored. The teams continue to investigate 100 per cent. of cases passed to them and balance this with risk-assessed cases to maximise their enforcement effort. The Government are clear that the downturn should not be an excuse to deny people their basic employment rights including national minimum wage.

Motor Vehicles: Government Assistance

Mr. Ancram: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what steps he is taking to safeguard UK car manufacturing. [265438]

Ian Pearson: I refer the right hon. Member to the answer I gave to my hon. Friend the Member for Chorley (Mr. Hoyle) dated 12 March 2009, *Official Report*, column 707W.

Motor Vehicles: Small Businesses

Mr. Newmark: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what steps his Department is taking to support small businesses which supply parts to the automotive industry. [265681]

Ian Pearson: I wrote to major automotive manufacturers and Tier 1 suppliers in December 2008 asking them to circulate a tailored note about support to their suppliers. A revised version of the note—including details of the Automotive Assistance Programme announced on 27 January and the Enterprise Finance Guarantee—was circulated on 16 March 2009. Copies will be placed in the Libraries of the House.

Opposition

Charles Hendry: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what formal contacts there have been between regional development agencies and each *(a)* Shadow Minister and *(b)* Liberal Democrat spokesperson on the policy areas where each have lead responsibility in the last six months. [266042]

Mr. McFadden *[holding answer 24 March 2009]:* The Regional Development Agencies (RDAs) network is divided into a series of 'lead roles' whereby a certain RDA will assume responsibility for the wider network's policy relationship with a particular Government Department. The following list shows formal contacts between RDAs with Shadow Ministers and Liberal Democrat spokesperson in the last six months.

East of England Development Agency—(lead for Department for the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs)

Conservative

James Paice

Lord Taylor of Holbeach

South West Development Agency—(lead for Department for Culture, Media and Sport)

Conservative

Tobias Ellwood

Liberal Democrat

Don Foster

Performing Arts

John Mason: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform pursuant to the answer of 25 March 2009, *Official Report*, column 528W, on performing arts, what expenditure his Department and its predecessor incurred in engaging *(a)* actors, *(b)* musicians and *(c)* other performers in each of the last five years, broken down by (i) event and (ii) initiative. [268232]

Mr. McFadden: This information is not held centrally or readily disaggregated from contracted expenditure with suppliers. It could be supplied only at disproportionate cost.

Postal Services

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what meetings *(a)* the Secretary of State and *(b)* Ministers in his Department have had with (i) TNT, (ii) DHL, (iii) UPS, (iv) FedEx and (v) the Communication Workers' Union since 3 October 2008. [266344]

Mr. McFadden: The Secretary of State has met the CWU on:

22 October 2008

19 December 2008

13 January 2009

9 February 2009

and TNT on 9 December 2008 and 30 January 2009.

I met TNT on 18 March 2009 and the CWU on 22 October 2008, 2 February 2009 and 23 February 2009.

Shriti Vadera met TNT on 17 March.

Royal Mail

Geraldine Smith: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many postal operators have expressed interest in forming a strategic partnership with Royal Mail to date. [267048]

Mr. McFadden *[holding answer 27 March 2009]:* Government have received a number of expressions of interest regarding a partnership with Royal Mail. At this stage of the process only TNT has made their interest public.

Science and Innovation: Expenditure

Adam Afriyie: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform pursuant to the answer of 2 March 2009, *Official Report*, column 1342W, on business: Government assistance, how much was spent by each regional development agency on science and innovation in each year since 1999. [263105]

Mr. McFadden *[holding answer 20 March 2009]:* The following table shows expenditure by each RDA on science and innovation since 2001-02. The RDAs retain records of the last seven years. To provide records before this period will incur disproportionate costs.

The figures are based on the proportion of expenditure that was directly attributable to science or innovation. The increase in spending from 2001-02 to 2002-03 onwards was due to the introduction of the single programme budget, which enabled RDAs to have more flexibility around investment decisions.

RDAs expenditure on science and innovation

£ million

RDAs	*2001-02*	*2002-03*	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*
AWM	[1]	6.2	10.5	13	18.7	18.4	32.7
EEDA	3.2	4.5	5.2	9.5	33.7	22	23.2
EMDA	0.4	2	9.3	5.2	12.6	13.9	18
LDA	4.2	14.4	22	38.2	43.7	46.8	59.2
NWDA	2.5	33	40	63	88	85	91
ONE	10.4	28.5	47.5	45.4	42	51.8	45.6
SEEDA	1.6	5.1	5.5	8.1	18.8	25.9	26.3
SWRDA	[1]	4.1	26.3	20.1	13	16.5	24.4
YF	4.2	44.4	22	38.2	43.7	46.8	59.2

[1] Due to a change in accounting methods, data are unavailable before 2002.

Small Businesses: Holiday Leave

Mr. Oaten: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what estimate he has made of the cost to small businesses of the increase in holiday entitlement from 1 April 2009. [267467]

Mr. McFadden *[holding answer 27 March 2009]:* The Government worked very closely with small businesses and their representatives during the consultation process and in developing the final regulations. That is why the holiday entitlement was increased in two phases spread over 18 months, and the regulations provided other transitional arrangements, in order to help business make the necessary changes.

An assessment of the likely effects and costs on business, including on small and medium enterprises, was contained in the final regulatory impact assessment published in June 2007, which can be found on the BERR website at:

http://www.berr.gov.uk/consultations/page36462.html

VAT: Registration

Gordon Banks: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what estimate he has made of the number of businesses not registered for value added tax in *(a)* Ochil and South Perthshire constituency, *(b)* Scotland and *(c)* the UK. [265913]

Ian Pearson *[holding answer 23 March 2009]:* It is estimated that there were 155,425 businesses not registered for VAT in Scotland and 2,705,860 businesses not registered for VAT in the UK at the start of 2007. These are the latest available data.

Since data are not available at parliamentary constituency level, estimates cannot be made of the number of businesses not registered for VAT in Ochil and South Perthshire constituency.

WPP

Norman Baker: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform on what dates the Secretary of State has met Sir Martin Sorrell since he took up his office. [267781]

Mr. McFadden *[holding answer 30 March 2009]:* On 31 October 2008.

Written Questions: Government Responses

Paul Holmes: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform when he plans to answer Question 248248, on loss of departmental property, tabled on 12 January 2009. [262504]

Mr. McFadden: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave on 26 March 2009, *Official Report*, column reference 637W.

Mr. Amess: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform when he plans to answer question *(a)* 250233, *(b)* 250231 and *(c)* 250232 on the small firms loan guarantee scheme tabled on 19 January; what the reason for the time taken to reply to each is; and if he will make a statement. [263296]

Ian Pearson *[holding answer 18 March 2009]:* I replied to the hon. Member's questions on 17 March 2009, *Official Report*, columns 1131-32W.

Justine Greening: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform when he plans to answer Question 252766, on Heathrow expansion, tabled on 26 January 2009. [265556]

Ian Pearson: I replied to the hon. Member's question on 27 March 2009, *Official Report*, columns 737-38W.

Written Answers to Questions

Wednesday 1 April 2009

HOUSE OF COMMONS COMMISSION

Apprentices

Mr. Evennett: To ask the hon. Member for North Devon, representing the House of Commons Commission how many apprentices the House of Commons Commission employs. [267904]

Nick Harvey: The House at present has three full-time apprentices in the Craft Team within the Facilities Department. Currently, one apprentice (hot-water fitter) is working on NVQ level 3 and the two others (Carpenter/joiners) are working on NVQ level 2, having joined the House through the Young Apprenticeship Scheme, sponsored by Mr. Speaker. The scheme has been running for the past five years and offers students from Southwark an opportunity to spend one day per week for one school year in a work area of their choice. The scheme is being further developed so that the students who come to the House—around 10 per year—will spend two years here rather than one and will complete the first level of a modern apprenticeship, commencing in July this year.

WALES

Departmental Computers

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales how many laptop computers have been provided to *(a)* Ministers, *(b)* special advisers and *(c)* civil servants in his Department in each year since 2005; and at what cost. [268259]

Mr. Paul Murphy: The Wales Office is provided with its IT equipment by the Ministry of Justice and details of procurement costs are not held by my Department. The figures for the current year are given in the table, figures for previous years are not held in the format requested and can be provided only at disproportionate cost.

	Number
Ministers	0
Special advisers	0
Civil servants	7

Departmental Energy

Greg Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what recent progress his Department has made towards the target of increasing its energy efficiency per square metre of its Estate by 15 per cent. by 2010, relative to 1999-2000 levels; and if he will make a statement. [266871]

Mr. Paul Murphy: The Wales Office was only created in 1999. It only has two offices, in London and Cardiff respectively. The Department constantly seeks to increase the energy efficiency of its building. Available figures show that in 2007-08, the Wales Office reduced its energy consumption by 32 per cent. compared to the previous year.

Greg Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales how much *(a)* electricity, *(b)* gas and *(c)* other fuel was used by his Department in each of the last 10 years. [267326]

Mr. Paul Murphy: The Wales Office has spent the following amounts on electricity and other fuels:

		£
	Electricity	*Other fuels*
2002-03	14,440.37	—
2003-04	9,180.72	—
2004-05	4,368.05	—
2005-06	4132.43	8,505.35
2006-07	5,054.06	15,586.45
2007-08	4,007.14	13,746.23

Records for electricity are not available prior to 2002-03 and other fuels before 2005-06.

TRANSPORT

Air Pollution: EU Law

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether he has requested a derogation from EU air quality legislation in relation to limits on the levels of pollution from *(a)* nitrogen dioxide, *(b)* ozone and *(c)* other nitrogen oxides. [266513]

Huw Irranca-Davies: I have been asked to reply.

Air quality limit values are now met across 99 per cent. of the UK, delivering significant health benefits to the population. The remaining areas of non-compliance are extremely small.

Council Directive 2008/50/EC on Ambient Air Quality and Cleaner Air for Europe provides for member states to submit plans to the European Commission to postpone the compliance deadline for meeting the limit value for nitrogen dioxide from 2010 to 2015. The UK Government expect to submit such a plan to the Commission in 2010 following consultation later this year.

No derogation exists for ozone or other oxides of nitrogen.

Bus Services: Concessions

Mr. Leech: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many bus services covered by the concessionary bus fares scheme for the over 60s would not be available to pass holders under the Travel Concessions (Eligible Services) (Amendment) Order 2009; and what assessment he has made of the cost to local authorities of continuing the concessionary scheme on such services on a discretionary basis. [264540]

Paul Clark: The statutory instrument is intended to clarify the existing eligibility criteria, so it is not expected that a large number of services will be affected.

The Impact Assessment which accompanied the statutory instrument estimated the costs and benefits of the changes. Coach services were considered to be the most likely services to be affected. The total cost to all local authorities in England of paying for these trips which would no longer be eligible was estimated as £80,000 per year.

The amount of funding provided to local authorities by central government will not be affected by these changes to the eligibility criteria.

Heathrow Airport

Justine Greening: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) what *(a)* risk numbers, *(b)* risk descriptions, *(c)* measures in place to manage and (d) further actions of risks were contained under business plan objectives (i) 3.2.1, (ii) 3.2.3, (iii) 3.2 and (iv) 3.3.1 of the (A) December 2007, (B) February 2008 and (C) most recent version of the Project Heathrow project delivery and risk reports; [265875]

(2) what the risk numbers were of the risks contained under business plan objectives *(a)* 3.2.1, *(b)* 3.2.3, *(c)* 3.2 and *(d)* 3.3.1 in the (i) December 2007, (ii) February 2008 and (iii) most recent version of the Project Heathrow project delivery and risk reports; and what the (A) impact, (B) likelihood and (C) exposure of the (1) inherent and (2) residual risks was. [265876]

Jim Fitzpatrick: Heathrow risks were not reported for either December 2007 or February 2008. The most recent approved version of Heathrow risks is for February 2009. I will arrange for copies to be placed in the Libraries of the House.

Justine Greening: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what *(a)* measures in place and *(b)* risks were identified under number 3.1.2 B of the business project objective 3.2.1, Airport and airspace capacity and operations, in the Project Heathrow project delivery and risk report versions of (i) 23 January 2008 and (ii) March 2008, with a proximity designated as immediate; and if he will make a statement. [265909]

Jim Fitzpatrick *[holding answer 23 March 2009]*: Heathrow risks for January 2008 and March 2008 were recently released and will be published on the Department's website. I will arrange for copies to be placed in the Libraries of the House.

Manchester-Southport Railway Line

Rosie Cooper: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what recent discussions he has had with Northern Rail on levels of service on the Manchester-Southport line; and if he will make a statement. [266712]

Paul Clark: Officials in the Department for Transport have regular meetings with Northern Rail. Service provision and performance is always an agenda item. The Secretary of State for Transport is content that despite poor performance recently and a period of planned engineering work, Northern Rail are doing everything possible to reduce levels of disruption to its passengers.

Rosie Cooper: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will include the level of disruption to Manchester-Southport rail services on the morning of Thursday 19 March on the agenda of his next franchise review meeting with Northern Rail. [266803]

Paul Clark: Officials in the Department for Transport met with Northern Rail on 25 March and performance was discussed; this included disruption on 19 March. The Secretary of State for Transport is content that the underlying issue was a points failure and that Northern Rail made every effort to restore services as quickly as possible.

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

Iran

Dr. Ladyman: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment he has made of the state of Iran's nuclear programme. [267610]

Bill Rammell: The International Atomic Energy Authority (IAEA)'s latest report of 19 February 2009 shows that Iran continues to refuse to suspend its proliferation sensitive nuclear activities, and has not granted the IAEA the access it seeks, as required by five UN Security Council Resolutions.

We, and the international community, will remain extremely concerned by Iran's nuclear programme until it fulfils its international obligations and restores confidence in its intentions.

Afghanistan: Detainees

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs on how many occasions since April 2005 Ministers have been informed that UK security officials have raised concerns about allegations of mistreatment of detainees, as referred to in the Government's Response to paragraph 126 of the Intelligence and Security Committee's Report on the Handling of Detainees by UK Intelligence Personnel in Afghanistan, Guantánamo Bay and Iraq, Cm 6511. [260258]

David Miliband: It is the long-standing policy of the Government not to comment on operational intelligence matters.

We take any alleged mistreatment of detainees extremely seriously. All UK intelligence officers and service personnel are given strict guidance about the standards that we apply during the detention and interviewing of detainees overseas, including on working with liaison partners. This guidance is kept under constant review by the Agencies, in keeping with the UK's obligations under the UN Convention against Torture, Article 11. My right hon. Friend the Prime Minister made a written ministerial statement to Parliament on 18 March 2009, *Official Report*, column 55WS, undertaking to publish this guidance, once it has been consolidated and reviewed by the Intelligence and Security Committee (ISC), in order to put beyond doubt the terms under which our Agencies and service personnel operate. He also asked the ISC to consider any new developments and relevant information since their reports into detention (2005) and rendition (2007).

Afghanistan: Elections

Mr. Ancram: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs when he expects elections to take place in Afghanistan; and what steps the Government are taking to facilitate such elections. [260001]

Bill Rammell: The Afghan Independent Electoral Commission (IEC), established under Afghanistan's 2004 Constitution, is responsible for administering Afghanistan's elections. The IEC has announced that presidential and provincial council elections be held on 20 August 2009. Parliamentary and district council elections are due in 2010.

We are actively working in support of the Afghans, UN and the International Security Assistance Force to help ensure successful Afghan elections which are critical to Afghanistan's future. We have so far committed £16.6 million to supporting the elections. This funding is paid to the UN Development Programme (UNDP) run enhancing legal and electoral capacity for tomorrow (ELECT) project, which provides technical and capacity-building assistance in support of Afghanistan's electoral cycle.

More details on the ELECT project are available online at:

http://www.undp.org.af/WhoWeAre/UNDPinAfghanistan/Projects/dcse/pri_elect.htm

In Afghanistan, we are in regular dialogue with the UNDP, the IEC and other international donors on preparations for the elections. On the ground in Helmand, British military and civilians are working closely with the IEC and Afghan national security forces to support preparations. Afghan-led security has ensured that voter registration was conducted across Afghanistan without major incidents.

Afghanistan: Peacekeeping Operations

Lynne Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what conditions he will require to be satisfied before British troops may be withdrawn from Afghanistan. [267877]

Bill Rammell: It is vital to UK national security interests that Afghanistan becomes a stable and secure state, able to suppress terrorism and violent extremism within its borders and to contribute to the same objective across the border in Pakistan.

The UK is fully committed to supporting the government of Afghanistan until it is able to establish the right security environment in which accountable and effective institutions can develop and where Afghan-led reconstruction and development can happen. Our approach is in line with the long-term and comprehensive framework for security, political, social and economic development for Afghanistan outlined by my right hon. Friend the Prime Minister to the House of Commons, on 12 December 2007, *Official Report*, columns 303-07.

Burma: Politics and Government

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent steps the Government has taken to monitor the political situation in Burma. [266093]

Bill Rammell: Our embassy in Rangoon continues its regular contact with representatives of political and ethnic groups, local and international non-governmental organisations, political prisoner support networks, and UN agencies operating on the ground, and our ambassador maintains a robust dialogue with ministers and officials in the military government.

We also remain in close contact with the UN Secretary-General, his special adviser Ibrahim Gambari, and the UN Special Rapporteur on human rights in Burma. We discuss Burma frequently with countries in the region including China, India and Burma's fellow members of the Association of South East Asian Nations. Foreign and Commonwealth Office and Department for International Development officials are in touch with a wide range of stakeholder groups outside of Burma, including in neighbouring Thailand and in the UK.

Caucasus: Conflict Prevention

Mr. Moore: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the written ministerial statement of 25 March 2009, *Official Report*, columns 17-19WS, on conflict resources 2009-10, how much funding will be allocated to conflict prevention in the Caucasus in 2009-10; and if he will make a statement. [268024]

Caroline Flint: Approximately £4 million has been allocated to conflict prevention work and international secondments to peacekeeping missions in the Caucasus. This is in addition to the UK's assessed contributions to the UN Peacekeeping mission in Georgia (UNOMiG); and UK contributions to the EU's Common Foreign and Security Policy budget and the costs of the Organisation Security and Co-operation in Europe field missions in the region.

Further details on changes to funding of projects and future activities were set out in my letter to the chairman of the European scrutiny committee of 25 March 2009, a copy of which has been placed in the Library of the House.

Departmental Finance

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the Answer of 12 March 2009, *Official Report*, column 625W, on departmental public expenditure, who the budget holders with devolved responsibility are; and if he will make a statement. [266922]

David Miliband: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office operates a mechanism of devolved budget responsibility. Budgets are initially devolved to director-generals and those responsible for the delivery of the departmental strategic objectives. These are further devolved to directors and heads of mission.

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the Answer of 10 March 2009, *Official Report*, columns 217-20W, on departmental public expenditure, what guidance has been given to budget holders with devolved responsibility on managing the funding implications of adverse exchange movements; and if he will place a copy of this guidance in the Library. [266923]

David Miliband: All budget holders are aware that they must manage the expenditure falling within their devolved budgets to take account of such contingencies.

Budgets are supplemented for overseas price mechanism adjustments from the centre.

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the Answer of 12 March 2009, *Official Report*, column 625W, on departmental public expenditure, when the next quarterly review process is expected to be completed; and if he will place in the Library a copy of the most recent quarterly review. [266924]

David Miliband: The quarterly review takes place after each quarter end throughout the financial year. The next quarterly review will take place at the end of June 2009.

The quarterly review does not culminate in a report that can be placed in the Library of the House.

Elections: Monitoring

Mr. Bruce George: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs from which budget heading his Department will allocate funding for Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe election observation in future. [268156]

Caroline Flint: We greatly value the election observation work of the Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE). We will continue to uphold the commitment we made in 2004 to provide, from the UK, up to 10 per cent. of observers to the OSCE's election observation missions on, an ad hoc basis.

Decisions on internal resource allocations are still under way and we are considering the details of arrangements for funding the UK contribution.

Mr. Bruce George: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many election observation missions planned by the Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe/Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights for 2009 the UK plans to participate in; and how many observers his Department intends to fund. [268157]

Caroline Flint: We greatly value the election observation work of the Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE). We will continue to uphold the commitment we made in 2004 to provide, from the UK, up to 10 per cent. of observers to the OSCE's election observation missions on an ad hoc basis. No decisions have been made on exact numbers for missions in 2009.

Mr. Bruce George: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what discussions he has had with the Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe/Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights following his announcement on UK contributions to election observation. [268158]

Caroline Flint: We wrote to the Secretary-General of the Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE) to inform him of the final decision on funding following the announcement to Parliament. There have been no discussions specifically on election observations.

We greatly value the election observation work of the OSCE. We will continue to uphold the commitment we made in 2004 to provide, from the UK, up to 10 per cent. of observers to the OSCE's election observation missions on an ad hoc basis.

Mr. Bruce George: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what percentage contribution to Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe election observation missions the UK plans to make in the future. [268159]

Caroline Flint: We greatly value the election observation work of the Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE). We will continue to uphold the commitment we made in 2004 to provide, from the UK, up to 10 per cent. of observers to the OSCE's election observation missions on an ad hoc basis.

European Union

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what proportion of *(a)* heads of representation and *(b)* other staff of European Communities representative offices outside the EU are British nationals. [263996]

Caroline Flint: We do not hold this information. The relevant data is owned by the European Commission.

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many A Grade level staff of each nationality work for *(a)* the EU High Representative for Common Foreign and Security Policy and *(b)* the EU external action service. [263997]

Caroline Flint: The information requested is as follows:

(a) We do not hold this information. The relevant data is owned by the Secretariat of the Council of Ministers of the EU.

(b) None. The EU external action service would only be set up were the Lisbon Treaty to come into force.

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs to which international bodies the European Commission has supplied a declaration of treaty competences. [264010]

Caroline Flint: We do not hold this information. The relevant data is owned by the European Commission.

Gibraltar

Stewart Hosie: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what borrowing powers the governments of *(a)* Gibraltar, *(b)* the Isle of Man and *(c)* Guernsey have. [259216]

Caroline Flint: Under the 2006 Gibraltar constitution, borrowing powers are a matter for the Government of Gibraltar.

The States of Guernsey is a self-governing democracy and regulates its own financial and fiscal affairs, which includes the power to borrow. The Isle of Man Government's powers of borrowing are set out in the Isle of Man Loans Act 1974.

Hezbollah

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the Answer of 23 March 2009, *Official Report*, column 28W, on Hezbollah, on what basis he concluded that political contacts with Hezbollah's political wing would now be productive; and if he will make a statement. [267731]

David Miliband: Following the Doha Agreement of May 2008 and further positive political developments in Lebanon, we consider that targeted contacts with Hezbollah politicians will provide an opportunity to speak frankly and directly about state-building in Lebanon, regional stability and the peace process. We will also continue to re-iterate the need to implement UN Security Council Resolution 1701 in full. Our policy allows us to recognise the legitimate political role that Hezbollah plays in Lebanon, while taking a tough stance on terrorism.

Madagascar: Politics and Government

Mr. Duncan Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent reports he has received on the political situation in Madagascar. [264790]

Gillian Merron: Our high commission in Port Louis which covers Madagascar, has provided frequent political reporting since the current crisis in Madagascar intensified at the end of January 2009. Our officers in Port Louis have visited Antananarivo during this period, to gather information from officials, diplomatic representatives, international organisations such as the EU, US, and UN, business contacts and the non-governmental organisations community in Madagascar and capitals. Staff in our British interest section and honorary consulates in Antananarivo and Tamatave also provide regular updates. We remain very concerned by the situation in Madagascar and urge all sides to seek a resolution which ensures a return to the constitutional and democratic process.

Middle East: Armed Conflict

Clare Short: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what steps he is taking to comply with the Government's responsibility as a High Contracting Party to the Geneva Convention in respect of the Advisory Opinion of the International Court of Justice on Israel's wall in the West Bank; and if he will make a statement. [250292]

Bill Rammell: While the advisory opinions of the International Court of Justice (ICJ) are not legally binding, and do not impose international legal obligations on third parties, such as the UK, we continue to lobby the Government of Israel to ensure that any Israeli barrier is constructed within Green Line Israel. The Government agree with the conclusion of the ICJ that the construction of the barrier along the chosen route, and its associated security regime, is unlawful under international law. Building the barrier on occupied land is contrary to international law.

The Government have consistently made this position clear, and supported the UN General Assembly Resolution which acknowledged the ICJ advisory opinion on the legal consequences of the construction of the barrier in Occupied Palestinian Territories.

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what reports he has received on the number of *(a)* rockets and *(b)* mortar shells fired at Israel since 3 February 2009 from (i) Gaza and (ii) Lebanon; and if he will make a statement. [263244]

Bill Rammell: Since 3 February 2009 there have been two rockets fired at Israel from Lebanon. The Israeli authorities report that from 13 February 2009 to 6 March 2009 there were 63 rockets and 43 mortars fired at Israel from Gaza.

Nuclear Weapons: Arms Control

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs with reference to the Statement during the Prime Minister's address to the US Congress that the UK would work with the United States of America to reduce stockpiles of nuclear weapons, what steps the Government is taking to achieve that objective. [267081]

Bill Rammell: We regularly discuss with US officials the implementation of all aspects of the Non-Proliferation Treaty including Article 6 disarmament obligations. We are working with the US, and other P5 partners on the agenda for the UK hosted P5 Conference on the Verification of Disarmament to be held in September 2009. We welcomed the recent announcement by the US to conclude a successor to the Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty which is due to expire in December 2009.

Overseas Trade: Prices

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the Answer of 2 March 2009, *Official Report*, column 1250W, on overseas trade: prices, on how many occasions Ministers in his Department attended meetings to discuss the withdrawal of support for the overseas price mechanism; which Ministers from his Department attended these meetings; and when the meetings were held. [266920]

David Miliband: Foreign and Commonwealth Office Ministers and Officials have discussions with a variety of organisations in the public and private sectors as part of the process of policy development and delivery. It is not the Government's practice to provide details of all such meetings.

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the Answer of 2 March 2009, *Official Report*, column 1250W, on overseas trade: prices, what assessment was made by his Department of the merits of the withdrawal of support for the overseas price mechanism; and if he will make a statement. [266921]

David Miliband: Foreign and Commonwealth Office Ministers and officials discussed the comprehensive spending review with HM Treasury Ministers and officials prior to the announcement on the overseas price mechanism (OPM). These discussions covered the working of the OPM.

Pakistan: Terrorism

Mr. Duncan Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what discussions his Department has had with representatives of the government of Pakistan on the political situation in Pakistan following the attack on the Sri Lankan cricket team. [264791]

Bill Rammell: Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) officials of our high commission in Islamabad have frequent discussions about the political and security situation in Pakistan with a wide range of Pakistani Ministers, politicians and officials.

FCO officials in the UK regularly engage with visiting members of the Pakistani Government and officials of the Pakistani high commission in London. My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary discussed the situation in Pakistan with President Asif Zardari on 12 March 2009.

Sri Lanka: Armed Conflict

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent steps the Government has taken to encourage the Sri Lankan government and the Tamil Tigers to reopen peace talks. [26308[illegible]

Bill Rammell: As my right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary has made clear, in his oral response of 24 February 2009, *Official Report*, columns 140-43, our view remains that a political solution is the only way to bring a sustainable end to the conflict in Sri Lanka. Our consistent position remains that for peace to be sustainable, an inclusive political process that takes fully into account the legitimate concerns of all Sri Lankan communities—Sinhalese, Tamil and Muslim—is essential. Our high commission in Colombo takes every opportunity to convey this to the Government of Sri Lanka. As my right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary made clear in his written ministerial statement of 21 January 2009, *Official Report*, column 31WS, we continue to engage with all political parties across all communities in Sri Lanka to support progress in this direction.

Sudan: Overseas Aid

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what steps he is taking to secure the return of aid agencies expelled from Darfur; and if he will make a statement. [267730]

David Miliband: The Sudanese government's decision to expel humanitarian non-governmental organisations (NGOs) is incomprehensible and unacceptable. We have called on the Sudanese authorities directly and publicly to reverse the measure and continue to allow the full provision of humanitarian assistance.

Our ambassador in Khartoum has urged the government of Sudan to allow NGOs to continue their work.

The UN Security Council agreed a statement on 26 March 2009 urging the government of Sudan to continue co-operating with the UN and humanitarian organisations and appealing to it to reconsider the decision on suspending the activities of some NGOs in Sudan.

The EU presidency issued a statement on similar lines on 10 March 2009 which EU Foreign Ministers reaffirmed at their meeting on 16 March 2009.

My right hon. Friend the Prime Minister, and other Ministers have also raised the humanitarian situation with China, Russia and a wide range of African leaders and urged them to also press the government of Sudan to reverse its decision. We will continue to do this, in close co-ordination with EU partners and the US.

Tokyo

Mr. Heathcoat-Amory: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many visits were made by Ministers to Tokyo in the financial year 2007-08. [264572]

Bill Rammell: There were nine visits to Tokyo in the financial year 2007-08.

ENERGY AND CLIMATE CHANGE

Congo Basin Forest Fund

Martin Horwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change who represents the Government on the governing body of the Congo Basin Forest Fund. [266726]

Mr. Thomas: I have been asked to reply.

The UK Government are represented on the Congo Basin Forest Fund's (CBFF) Governing Council by the Department for International Development (DFID). A Director from DFID's Africa Division represents the Minister of State on the Governing Council.

Met Office: Finance

Greg Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what the budget of the Met Office Hadley Centre is in each year from 2008-09 to 2013-14. [266665]

Mr. Kevan Jones: I have been asked to reply.

The planned budget is currently in the region of £20 million a year.

OLYMPICS

Olympic Games 2012: Cumbria

Mr. Jamie Reed: To ask the Minister for the Olympics (1) what assessment the Government Olympic Executive has made of the effect on the supply chain in *(a)* Cumbria and *(b)* Copeland constituency of the construction process for Olympic venues; [263712]

(2) what estimate the Government Olympic Executive has made of the revenue to the construction industry supply chain which will accrue from the construction of Olympic venues. [263713]

Tessa Jowell: London 2012 will directly procure £6 billion worth of contracts. This investment will be recycled many times over through the Olympic Delivery Authority (ODA) and the London Organising Committee for the Olympic Games and Paralympic Games' (LOCOG) supply chains through as many as 75,000 sub contracts. 50,000 of these will be in the ODA's supply chains.

It is difficult to estimate the full impact on the supply chain of the construction programme. However, the ODA is currently conducting research in its supply chains on a venue by venue basis, which may give us a better picture at a regional level. I will ensure you receive this information for the North West region once this is available.

To the end of January 2009, 35 businesses registered in the North West had won a contract directly supplying the ODA. This includes one business registered in Cumbria. No businesses registered in Copeland have won contracts to date. Additionally, three other businesses registered in the region have won contracts in the London 2012 supply chains through CompeteFor.

Businesses interested in getting involved in the games should be encouraged to sign up to CompeteFor, the electronic brokerage service that is designed to give business across the country access to contracts in the London 2012 supply chains. To date, over 2,200 opportunities have been posted on CompeteFor.

TREASURY

Bank Services: Charities

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer for what reasons the Financial Services Compensation Scheme has not allowed *(a)* the Christie charity's claim for £6.5 million and *(b)* the Christie Hospital's claim for £1 million after the collapse of Kaupthing, Singer and Friedlander. [267437]

Angela Eagle: The rules of the financial services compensation scheme (FSCS), which are made by the FSA, can be found in the Compensation Sourcebook (COMP) section of the FSA's handbook—available on the FSA website at:

www.fsa.gov.uk

There are no rules dealing specifically with charities, so FSCS's assessment of eligibility will turn on how a charity is legally constituted, and by applying its rules in the usual way.

The FSCS and FSA operate independently of the Treasury. The FSCS must administer the scheme in accordance with the rules, including the assessment of whether or not a claimant is eligible for compensation. The FSCS has no discretion to act outside these rules.

Treasury Group performance for the period 2005-06 to 2007-08 can be found at Page 97 of the Treasury's Annual Report for 2007-08 (Cm 7408).

Utilities consumption for HM Treasury in 1 Horse Guards Road for 2003-04 and 2004-05 is shown on the following table. Additional data for both OGC and DMO cannot be provided as this information would have been gathered by managing agents used at the time by these Departments.

		mWh
	2003-04	*2004-05*
Electricity	8,195	7,647
Gas	3,807	3,958

Information on previous years' consumption can be obtained only at disproportionate costs.

Bank Services: Loans

Ms Keeble: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what his most recent assessment is of the extent to which banks which have been recapitalised by the Government are complying with their agreements to provide mortgages and commercial loans at 2007 levels. [267586]

Angela Eagle: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given by the Economic Secretary to the Treasury, my hon. Friend the Member for Dudley, South (Ian Pearson), on this subject on 10 March 2009, *Official Report*, column 254W.

Banks: Finance

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) with reference to his Department's press notice of 19 January 2009 on the Asset Protection Scheme, what criteria will be used to determine what proportion of the value of the security will be guaranteed; [264388]

(2) with reference to his Department's press notice of 19 January 2009 on the Asset Protection Scheme, what further due diligence will be undertaken in respect of securities identified as triple A rated before they are included in the scheme. [264389]

(3) with reference to his Department's press notice of 19 January 2009 on the Asset Protection Scheme, what the remit for the investigations by his Department into the proposed eligible assets for inclusion in the Asset Protection scheme is; and when he expects such investigations to be concluded; [264390]

(4) what the *(a)* maturity profile and *(b)* asset type is of each eligible asset of (i) Lloyds Banking Group and (ii) Royal Bank of Scotland insured under the Asset Protection Scheme. [264430]

Ian Pearson: In order to restore confidence to financial markets, the focus of the Asset Protection Scheme is on the most uncertain assets on the books of UK banks. Details of the eligibility criteria for the inclusion of assets in the scheme were set out in the Treasury's press notice of 26 February.

The Treasury and its advisers have been working with participating banks to identify eligible assets and conduct due diligence on them.

Further details are set out in the document on the UK Asset Protection Scheme that the Chancellor placed in the House Library on 27 February.

Banks: Regulation

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what steps he plans to take on remuneration policies of banks in receipt of recapitalisation from the public purse in light of the recommendations of the Turner Report on the regulatory response to the global banking crisis. [267590]

Angela Eagle: The Government have taken a number of steps in relation to banks' remuneration policies, including imposing remuneration requirements as part of the recapitalisation programme and the Asset Protection Scheme (APS).

The FSA is currently consulting on its code of practice on remuneration. Banks that participate in the APS are required to review their remuneration policies and come up with long-term strategies that prevent excessive risk-taking in line with the FSA's code of practice.

UK Financial Investments Ltd. (UKFI), which manages the Government's shareholdings in financial institutions on a commercial and arm's length basis, has been overseeing the remuneration conditions attached to subscribing to the Government's recapitalisation fund, and the Treasury's Asset Protection Scheme. UKFI has worked to ensure management incentivisation based on long-term, sustainable performance and no rewards for failure, in order to protect the interest of the taxpayer as a shareholder.

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether he plans to give any new *(a)* powers and *(b)* responsibilities to the Financial Services Authority in respect of the recommendations made by Lord Turner in his report on the regulatory response to the global banking crisis. [267592]

Angela Eagle: The Government plan to publish a document on financial services regulation around the time of the budget.

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what assessment he has made of the conclusion of the Turner Report on the regulatory response to the global banking crisis that a complete legal distinction of narrow banking from market-making activities is not feasible. [267630]

Angela Eagle: We currently do not believe that the case has yet been made for a Glass-Steagall style split between retail banking and investment banking activities but will continue to keep this issue under review.

Climate Change Levy: Combined Heat and Power

Dr. Whitehead: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) what assessment he has made of the likely effects on the development of new combined heat and power (CHP) plants of the extension of Enhanced Capital Allowances to all potential CHP developers including licensed electricity suppliers; [267631]

(2) what assessment he has made of the effect on the development of new combined heat and power (CHP) plants and their contribution towards UK CHP targets of a cessation of climate change levy exemptions for electricity outputs after March 2013; [267632]

(3) what assessment he has made of the effect on the operation of existing combined heat and power plants of a cessation of climate change levy exemptions for electricity outputs after March 2013; [267633]

(4) what assessment he has made of the effects of exempting electricity outputs of combined heat and power plants from the climate change levy on *(a)* managing the energy costs of UK manufacturing and *(b)* achieving carbon dioxide emissions savings in energy production. [267634]

Angela Eagle: The Government recognise the role that combined heat and power (CHP) plays in helping the UK achieve its climate change targets, and provides support for CHP through a range of measures, including the current exemptions from the climate change levy, targeted enhanced capital allowances for good quality CHP, exemption from business rates and the carbon price signal arising from the EU ETS.

The Government keep all taxes under review and any decisions are made by the Chancellor as part of the Budget process.

Departmental Buildings

Dr. Pugh: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what buildings are owned or operated by his Department under a private finance initiative (PFI) arrangement; and which companies are involved with each such PFI arrangement. [267405]

Angela Eagle: 1 Horse Guards Road, London is operated on behalf of the Treasury by Exchequer Partnership plc under a private finance initiative agreement.

Departmental Energy

Greg Clark: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much *(a)* electricity, *(b)* gas and *(c)* other fuel was used by (i) his Department and (ii) each of its agencies in each of the last 10 years. [267344]

Angela Eagle: HM Treasury Group—including the Office of Government Commerce (OGC), and the Debt Management Office (DMO)—as with other central Government Departments, reports performance data on its energy consumption for its office estate annually as part of the Sustainable Development in Government reporting process in order to assess performance against the target to reduce carbon emissions from offices by 12.5 per cent. by 2010-11.

Departmental Public Expenditure

Grant Shapps: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what *(a)* capital funds and *(b)* resource funds his Department has brought forward from its (i) 2009-10 and (ii) 2010-11 budgets for use in (A) 2008-09 and (B) 2009-10; and what schemes this funding is being used to support. [267396]

Angela Eagle: The Treasury has not brought forward any of its departmental budget into 2008-09 from 2009-10 and currently has no plans to bring forward any of its 2010-11 budget into 2009-10.

Departmental Training

Grant Shapps: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much has been spent on media training for each Minister in his Department in each of the last three years; how many sessions have been provided; and who provided such training. [268312]

Angela Eagle: I refer the hon. Gentleman to the answers I gave to the hon. Member for Hammersmith and Fulham (Mr. Hands) on 25 March 2009, *Official Report*, column 406W. Of the £1,285 total expenditure given in that previous answer, £1,035 was for media training.

Departmental Travel

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much staff of each grade in *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agencies spent on first class travel in the most recent 12 month period for which figures are available. [illegible]

Angela Eagle: Information on the number and class of tickets purchased is not normally held, because the Treasury's accounting system records the costs of travel but not the number or type of tickets bought. However, for financial year 2007-08, the travel management company provided information on the number and type of tickets purchased through them. Tickets bought but subsequently refunded are excluded and some tickets are bought directly by the traveller, so this information is not a complete record of all tickets bought. Using information from the travel management company, combined spending of HM Treasury and the Debt Management Office in 2007-08 on first class travel was £549,000.

Since 1999, the Government have published, on an annual basis, a list of all overseas visits by Cabinet Ministers costing in excess of £500, as well as the total cost of all ministerial travel overseas. Copies of the lists are available in the Libraries of the House. All travel is undertaken in accordance with the 'Civil Service Management Code' and the 'Ministerial Code'.

Insurance: Funerals

Mr. Cox: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will bring forward measures to ensure that elderly people paying towards a funeral plan can be issued with a paid-up policy rather than continue to pay premiums in excess of the sum assured. [267740]

Ian Pearson: The regulation of whole of life insurance policies sold to help meet funeral expenses is a matter for the FSA. Insurance policies are based on the principle of sharing risk between policyholders, and the terms of these policies must be explained to the consumer. If a consumer does not feel these terms were explained and they are unsatisfied with the response to their complaints to their provider, they can ask the Financial Ombudsman Service (FOS) to consider their case.

Members: Correspondence

Alistair Burt: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer when the Financial Secretary to the Treasury plans to reply to the letters from the hon. Member for North East Bedfordshire of 24 November 2008 and 8 January 2009 on the Tax Credit Office. [256266]

Mr. Timms: The correspondence referred to could not be traced. The hon. Member's office has supplied copies and a reply should be provided shortly.

Steve Webb: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer when he plans to reply to the letter from the hon. Member for Northavon of 3 December 2008 on behalf of Mr A Edgington of Coalpit Heath, on membership of HM Treasury working party. [267258]

Angela Eagle: A reply has been sent to the hon. Member.

Performing Arts

John Mason: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the answer of 18 March 2009, *Official Report*, column 1193W, on Members: correspondence, what the cost to his Department was of engaging actors to contribute to training programmes organised by his Department in each year since 1997. [267471]

Angela Eagle: The costs of using actors within training programmes are not separately invoiced and their use is not centrally recorded. This information could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Royal Bank of Scotland: Pensions

Sir John Butterfill: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what proportion of the amount paid by the Government to the Royal Bank of Scotland (RBS) has been allocated to the RBS pension scheme; what estimate he has made of the current deficit of the RBS pension scheme; whether Sir Fred Goodwin has commuted any part of his pension entitlement into a lump sum; and if he will make a statement. [262126]

Ian Pearson: Details of the position on the RBS Group pension fund are set out in the annual accounts, available on the RBS website.

Sir Fred Goodwin has converted part of his pension entitlement into a lump sum, but RBS has asked him to consider waiving part of his entitlement.

Tax Allowances: Pensioners

Steve Webb: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the cost to the public purse to cease reducing the age-related allowance for people *(a)* between 65 and 74 and *(b)* over 75 years old when their income exceeds the income limit. [255268]

Mr. Timms: The full-year cost for 2008-09 of not reducing age-related allowance for taxpayers with income above the income limit is around £420 million for those aged 65 to 74, and £270 million for those aged 75 and over.

These estimates are based on the Survey of Personal incomes for 2005-06 projected forward in line with pre-Budget report 2008 assumptions.

Tax Avoidance

John Battle: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many holders of offshore bank accounts have declared unpaid tax bills under the partial amnesty announced by his Department; and what his estimate is of the revenue foregone by the Exchequer arising from such unpaid tax liabilities in the last five years. [267830]

Mr. Timms: 31,700 people came forward to disclose previously unreported tax liabilities in response to the Offshore Disclosure Facility launched in April 2007 following HM Revenue and Customs having obtained specific information of offshore bank accounts. Those disclosures resulted in £400 million being recovered. There are no reliable estimates of the overall tax losses associated with such accounts.

Tax Credit

Mr. Gale: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the average length of time taken by the Adjudicator's Office to process reviews of decisions taken by HM Revenue and Customs was in the latest period for which figures are available; and if he will make a statement. [267876]

Mr. Timms: The average investigation turnaround was 23 weeks in 2007-08.

Information relating to investigation turnaround of all investigations in 2008-09 will be collated at the end of the financial year and will be published in the Adjudicator's Office 2008-09 annual report.

Taxation: Video Games

Philip Davies: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what assessment he has made for benchmarking purposes of the effectiveness of the tax incentives provided to the video games development industry in the UK compared to those of other countries. [267566]

Angela Eagle: The Government are committed to supporting enterprise and innovation in all sectors, including the creative industries. A number of measures are available to assist small and developing companies, such as those found in the video games sector, in overcoming barriers to growth. Companies in the games industry are amongst those innovative companies benefiting from the UK's generous and recently enhanced R and D tax credit, though no assessment is available by individual sector.

The UK remains a highly competitive place to do business. At 28 per cent. the main rate of corporation tax is the lowest in the G7, and at its lowest ever rate.

The small companies rate, at 21 per cent. in 2008-09 is highly competitive internationally.

VAT: Food

Mr. Austin Mitchell: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what provision EU directives on value added tax make for the imposition of value added tax at a rate other than zero on the sale of specially-formulated, very low calorie diet products. [268218]

Mr. Timms: Under EU VAT agreements, supplies of goods and services are subject to the standard rate of VAT except where specific provisions permit the application of a lower rate.

The Principal VAT Directive allows member states to apply a reduced rate of VAT of not less than 5 per cent. to foodstuffs, including beverages other than alcoholic beverages, and the UK is also allowed to continue to apply a zero rate to those supplies, including food, whose supply was zero-rated at 1 January 1991, although the scope of this zero rate may not be extended.

Working Tax Credit

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many people in the Portsmouth travel-to-work area have been *(a)* underpaid and *(b)* overpaid working tax credit in the last two years. [256549]

Mr. Timms: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave him on 23 February 2009, *Official Report*, column 333W.

Written Questions: Government Responses

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer when he plans to answer Question 256549 tabled on 29 January 2009 by the hon. Member for Portsmouth, South on tax credit; and what the reasons are for the time taken to answer. [267908]

Mr. Timms: I have now replied to the hon. Member and apologise for the delay, which was due to an administration error.

JUSTICE

Civil Service

Mr. Hollobone: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what recent progress has been made in preparations for legislative proposals to underpin the role, governance and values of the Civil Service. [267967]

Mr. Wills: The Governance of Britain Green Paper set out the Government's commitment to bring forward legislation to enshrine the governance, core principles and values of the civil service in law. The draft Constitutional Renewal Bill contained provisions in respect of the civil service. It remains the Government's intention to bring forward this legislation, and the Bill is in the final stages of drafting.

Commissioner for Victims and Witnesses

Mr. Grieve: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how much was spent on the recruitment exercise for a Commissioner for Victims and Witnesses. [268075]

Mr. Straw: The total cost of the recruitment campaign in 2006 for the role of Victims' Commissioner was £96,625.

Courts: Travel

Mr. Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) what resources have been made available to meet the travel and accommodation costs of people living in Torbay for attendance at video conferencing facilities for hearings by *(a)* HM Courts Service and *(b)* the Legal Services Commission; [267040]

(2) what steps have been taken by *(a)* HM Courts Service and *(b)* the Legal Services Commission to facilitate video links to hearings for people in Torbay; and how far anyone living in Torbay would be expected to travel to a video link by (i) HM Courts Service and (ii) the Legal Services Commission; [267041]

(3) what *(a)* procedures and *(b)* policies his Department and the bodies it sponsors have put in place to minimise the amount spent on travel and accommodation by lawyers representing them at court hearings; [267042]

(4) what procedures are in place to facilitate the attendance of litigants in person at administrative court hearings in circumstances where funding is not available from the Legal Services Commission; [267043]

(5) what funds are available to HM Courts Service to facilitate the attendance at court hearings of litigants in person who do not have the means to pay for travel and accommodation; [267044]

(6) if he will take steps to assist litigants in person who do not have the financial means to attend a hearing at the Administrative Court to present their case *(a)* in person and *(b)* by videolink; and what mechanisms HM Courts Service has in place in respect of litigants in person who are unable to attend hearings; [267490]

(7) if he will put in place mechanisms to monitor levels of access to legal redress for individuals resident outside the area of the High Court to ensure that such individuals are not disadvantaged; [267543]

(8) if he will take steps to ensure that litigants in person have equality of arms in respect of proceedings involving Government departments. [267544]

Bridget Prentice: I will write to the hon. Member when I am in a position to do so and place a copy of my letter in the Library of the House.

Crimes of Violence: Prosecutions

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many individuals were prosecuted for *(a)* attempted murder, *(b)* manslaughter and *(c)* rape in (i) England and Wales, (ii) the North East, (iii) Tees Valley district and (iv) Middlesbrough South and East Cleveland constituency in each year since 1997. [265340]

Maria Eagle: The number of persons proceeded against at magistrates courts, for attempted murder, manslaughter, and rape, in Cleveland police force area, the north east region, and England and Wales, 1997 to 2007 is shown in the following table.

Court proceedings data are not available at constituency level, thus Cleveland police force area data have been provided in lieu.

These data are on the principal offence basis. The figures given in the table on court proceedings relate to persons for whom these offences were the principal offence for which they were dealt with. When a defendant has been found guilty of two or more offences, the offence selected is the one for which the heaviest penalty is imposed. Where the same disposal is imposed for two or more offences, the offence selected is the offence for which the statutory maximum penalty is the most severe.

Court proceedings data for 2008 will be available in the autumn of 2009.

The number of persons proceeded against at magistrates courts, for attempted murder, manslaughter, and rape, in Cleveland police force area, the north east region, and England and Wales, 1997 to 2007[1, 2, 3]

	Proceeded against		
	Cleveland police force area	North east region	England and Wales
Attempted murder			
1997	10	31	436
1998	7	17	431
1999	9	25	418
2000	2	12	403
2001	11	26	585
2002	4	12	465
2003	19	30	512
2004	5	17	417
2005	5	18	354
2006	7	9	357
2007	10	14	333
Manslaughter			
1997	1	4	94
1998	0	6	100
1999	0	5	115
2000	3	8	136
2001	4	8	141
2002	1	7	112
2003	0	2	94
2004	1	5	137
2005	5	10	91
2006	2	8	114
2007	0	4	105
Rape (Actual)			
1997	12	109	1,794
1998	18	159	2,012
1999	16	142	1,986
2000	17	141	1,865
2001	19	126	2,417
2002	32	126	2,698
2003	34	131	2,550
2004	24	109	2,453
2005	41	128	2,558
2006	32	123	2,335
2007	31	109	2,138

[1] These data are on the principal offence basis.

[2] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

[3] Includes the following statutes and corresponding offence descriptions:
Sexual Offences Act 2003 S.1, Rape of a female aged under 16.
Sexual Offences Act 2003 S.1, Rape of a female aged 16 or over
Sexual Offences Act 2003 S.1, Rape of a male aged under 16.
Sexual Offences Act 2003 S.1, Rape of a male aged 16 or over.
Sexual Offences Act 2003 S.5, Rape of a female child under 13 by a male.
Sexual Offences Act 2003 S.5, Rape of a male child under 13 by a male.

Source:
Office for Criminal Justice Reform, Evidence & Analysis Unit—Ministry of Justice

Departmental Lost Property

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice whether officials in his Department who have lost laptops that were the property of his Department in the last 12 months have been charged the full value of replacement. [266227]

Mr. Straw: Laptop losses are investigated by line managers and, where appropriate, disciplinary action is considered, in line with the Department's policy. The Department has not charged individuals for the replacement value of laptops which were lost by officials in the period May 2007, when the Ministry was established, to March 2008.

Departmental Training

Mr. Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many staff awaydays his Department has held since its creation. [267807]

Mr. Malik: The Ministry of Justice does not hold centrally information on how many staff awaydays were organised. To collate this information would necessitate inquiring of all business areas across significant number of MOJ bodies, which would entail disproportionate cost.

Liverpool Prison: Cemeteries

Mr. O'Hara: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice with reference to the answer to the hon. Member for Torbay of 19 May 2008, *Official Report*, columns 71-3W, on Walton Prison: cemeteries, (1) what steps his Department has taken to resolve *(a)* any outstanding exhumation and funeral costs of and *(b)* matters relating to DNA testing in respect of George Kelly; [267859]

(2) what the *(a)* role and *(b)* pay band is of the official in his Department responsible for resolving any outstanding issues in the George Kelly case; [267860]

(3) if he will direct the Corporate Management Board of his Department to make an assessment of his Department's handling of matters relating to the George Kelly case in the light of the representations it has received on the matter; [267861]

(4) how many submissions have been made to Ministers in his Department and its predecessor in respect of the George Kelly case, and on what dates; and what the *(a)* role and *(b)* pay band was of each official who (i) drafted and (ii) was copied in on each submission. [267862]

Mr. Hanson: I will write to the hon. Member when I am in a position to do so and place a copy of my letter in the Library of the House.

National Offender Management Service: Finance

Mr. Grieve: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the budget for each probation area was in *(a)* 2006-07, *(b)* 2007-08 and *(c)* 2008-09. [268133]

Mr. Straw: The resource budget for each probation area is shown in the following table. These give the budget as at the end of the year. The 2008-09 figures may possibly be subject to change.

Probation boards end-year budgets

£000

Boards	*Revenue 2008-09*	*Revenue 2007-08*	*Revenue 2006-07*
Avon and Somerset	20,727	20,661	19,771
Bedfordshire	9,571	8,863	8,499
Cambridgeshire	10,341	9,727	9,273
Cheshire	15,571	14,715	15,688
Cumbria	8,376	8,217	7,897
Derbyshire	15,168	13,490	12,891
Devon and Cornwall	21,037	20,225	19,638
Dorset	9,408	8,522	8,277
Durham	11,148	10,720	10,245
Essex	20,319	19,977	18,922
Gloucestershire	7,858	7,379	6,959
Hampshire	25,614	24,338	23,057
Hertfordshire	11,750	11,265	10,569
Humberside	18,380	17,187	16,130
Kent	21,798	20,993	20,340
Lancashire	24,406	22,979	21,394
Leicestershire	15,668	14,402	13,805
Lincolnshire	9,794	9,292	9,038
Norfolk	11,980	11,168	10,608
Northamptonshire	9,673	9,116	8,816
North Yorkshire	10,350	10,236	9,478
Nottinghamshire	19,686	19,057	18,117
Staffordshire	17,260	16,393	15,913
Suffolk	10,243	9,643	9,445
Surrey	10,953	10,396	10,081
Sussex	18,388	17,373	16,991
Teesside	13,715	13,606	13,052
Thames Valley	26,614	25,405	24,373
Warwickshire	7,538	6,937	6,743
West Mercia	15,692	15,445	13,642
Wiltshire	8,214	7,874	7,720
Greater Manchester	52,798	48,309	47,532
Mersey side	32,756	29,283	28,820
Northumbria	29,801	27,646	26,964
South Yorkshire	25,511	24,282	24,058
West Midlands	59,331	55,055	53,377

Probation boards end-year budgets

£000

Boards	*Revenue 2008-09*	*Revenue 2007-08*	*Revenue 2006-07*
West Yorkshire	43,032	40,036	38,193
London	153,617	143,404	137,416
Dyfed Powys	8,960	8,295	8,058
Gwent	11,404	11,252	10,930
North Wales	12,530	11,786	11,696
South Wales	25,566	25,226	24,402
Total	912,546	860,172	828,817

Prisoners: Ex-servicemen

Mr. Garnier: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice if he will take steps to collect and publish information on the number and proportion of adult prisoners in each prison in England and Wales who had served in the armed services at any time prior to conviction. [267218]

Mr. Hanson: In response to the hon. Member's question on the collection of data on the numbers of prisoners in England and Wales who had previously served in the armed services, I refer him to my answer on 24 March 2009, *Official Report*, column 320W.

Prisons: Meat Products

Mr. Grieve: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what proportion of *(a)* ham, *(b)* pork, *(c)* beef and *(d)* chicken served in public sector prisons was produced in the UK in the last period for which figures are available. [264663]

Mr. Straw: Percentages of meat used by HM Prison Service that were produced in the UK in 2007-08 are shown in the following table.

	Percentage
Poultry meat	29
Beef and veal	13
Pork	23

Separate figures are not available for UK origin Ham used as it is included within the return for Pork.

This most recent information is contained in a Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs report for 2007-08 detailing the proportion of food grown or reared in the UK used by Whitehall departments, including that supplied to public sector prisons in England and Wales under contracts negotiated by HM Prison Service, now part of the National Offender Management Service (NOMS).

A copy of this report was placed in the House of Commons Library. An electronic copy can be obtained using the following link:

> http://wvvw.defra.gov.uk/farm/policy/sustain/procurement/pdf/psfpi-datareport081125.pdf

The data submitted by the Ministry of Justice was for 2007-08, it is anticipated by suppliers that the use of domestic frozen meat have increased since these figures were submitted. The Ministry of Justice is attempting to increase its percentage of meat bought of UK origin where it can and is currently retendering its frozen contracts (awarded in 2003) utilising food quality standards developed with the OGC and DEFRA. In addition, the objectives identified in the PSFPI form part of the frozen, retender evaluation criteria.

The weaker pound will increase the percentage of meat bought that is of UK origin as it becomes more cost effective.

Prisons: Standards

Mr. Garnier: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what research he has commissioned on the effects of prisoner numbers per prison on prison performance against the Prison Service's key performance indicators of safety and respect, including suicide levels. [267217]

Mr. Hanson: Ministers have not commissioned any external research specifically on the effects of prisoner numbers per prison on performance against KPIs of safety and respect.

My Department continues to monitor prison performance on a monthly basis against a range of indicators, including five indicators of safety and decency. For the 2008-09 financial year to date, performance is on track against the indicators of serious assaults, overcrowding, purposeful activity and time unlocked; and the three-year rate of self-inflicted deaths is falling.

Tribunals: Northern Ireland

Mr. Gregory Campbell: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice which courts in Northern Ireland are planned to be used as hearing centres in the next 12-months. [267714]

Bridget Prentice: The NI Court Service is currently carrying out a public consultation on the establishment of hearing centres at Larne, Bangor, Limavady, Magherafelt and Strabane courthouses.

Young Offenders

David Howarth: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice with reference to the written ministerial statement of 8 May 2007, *Official Report*, columns 6-7WS, on young adult offenders, what progress has been made on each of the nine proposals listed. [266150]

Mr. Hanson: The Government are committed to further work to plan for appropriate provision to address the specific needs of young adult offenders (YAOs).

A review of current policy for the management of young adults in custody is under way, and other work already completed or currently being taken forward includes:

> implementation of an improved protocol between the National Offender Management Service and the Youth Justice Board to ensure effective transition arrangements for young people moving to the young adult estate are put in place;
>
> provision of £500,000 to promote the use and evaluation of mentoring as part of the Offender Management package; and
>
> development of a pilot specification for a new YAO regime that will be designed to meet the needs of a sentenced young adult male population at HMP Isis, a new separate public sector prison within the existing HMP Belmarsh perimeter wall that will provide 624 places for 18 to 24-year-olds.

A review has also been conducted to consider implementation of recommendation 16 of the Mubarek report. The conclusions of this work will be considered as part of the wider review of the management of young adults in custody referred to above.

The initiatives that have been put in place, together with the work outlined above, build on previous schemes and continue to offer a positive and considered way forward for the management of young adult offenders.

Young Offenders: Reoffenders

David Howarth: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what percentage of *(a)* people and *(b)* women aged from 18 to 21 years old who received a criminal conviction in the last 12 months had been convicted of one or more criminal offences when under the age of 18. [267896]

Maria Eagle: Data held by the Ministry of Justice show that, of the 80,000 offenders aged between 18 and 21 who were sentenced by courts in England and Wales in 2007 and whose sentence was recorded on the police national computer, 43 per cent. (34,000) had previously been convicted under the age of 18. The equivalent figure for female offenders is 32 per cent. (3,100 out of a total of 9,700 offenders).

These figures have been drawn from the police's administrative IT system which, as with any large scale recording system, is subject to possible errors with data entry and processing. The figures are provisional and subject to change as more information is recorded by the police.

CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

Sports: Schools

Mr. Hepburn: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport (1) what funding his Department provided for sport in schools in *(a)* Jarrow constituency, *(b)* South Tyneside, *(c)* the North East and *(d)* England in each year since 1997; [266050]

(2) how many school sports co-ordinators there were in *(a)* Jarrow constituency, *(b)* South Tyneside, *(c)* the North East and *(d)* England in each year since their inception. [266063]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The Department for Children Schools and Families has advised that the number of schools sports co-ordinators in Jarrow, South Tyneside, the north-east and England, both in post and planned for each year for which figures are available is as follows:

Area	*2006-07*	*2007-08*	*2008-09*	*2009-10*	*2010-11*
Jarrow	38	38	38	38	38
South Tyneside	69	67	67	67	67
North East	2,032.5	2,005.5	1,187.5	1,185.5	n/k
England	22,396	22,057	21,872	21,840	21,840

Note:
These figures include school sport coordinators, primary link teachers, partnership development managers and assistant partnership development managers.

The Department for Children Schools and Families has also advised that the amounts provided for schools sports coaches in Jarrow, South Tyneside, the north-east and England, both in post and planned, for each year for which figures are available, is as follows:

							£ million
Area	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*	*2008-09*	*2009-10*	*2010-11*
Jarrow	—	—	0.354	0.290	0.154	0.154	0.154
South Tyneside	0.111	0.417	0.366	0.363	0.370	0.377	0.377
North East	4.187	6.136	6.919	7.021	6.831	6.985	6.913
England	67.983	89.268	110.631	113.692	113.685	116.256	115.868

Note:
Figures include school sport coordinators, primary link teachers, partnership development managers and assistant partnership development managers.

Further Government funding for sport in schools is available through the delivery of the School Club Links programme across England which is part of the PE and Sports Strategy for young people or PESSYP (formerly PESSCL). The amounts awarded in each year since the scheme began are as follows:

	£
2004-05	4,014,000
2005-06	5,016,000
2006-07	4,550,000
2007-08	4,550,000
2008-09	4,536,000

Exchequer funding for schools sport is also available through Sport England, who have advised that during the period in question they made one payment of £303,882 of Exchequer funding to a school in the north-east.

Theatre

Mr. Vaizey: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what the average attendance figures for each theatre in England that was in receipt of a grant from the Arts Council was in the latest year for which figures are available. [255012]

Barbara Follett: Arts Council England has advised that disclosing information on average attendance figures for each theatre in receipt of a grant from the Arts Council would breach commercial confidentiality. The Arts Council has, however, provided the following information on average attendance figures per region for 2006-07.

Arts Council England regularly funded theatres 2006-07

Region	*Total audiences*[1]	*Number of performances*	*Number of theatres*	*Average audience per performance*	*Average audience per theatre*
East	491,263	2,130	12	231	40,939
East Midlands	720,235	2,551	11	282	65,476
London	4,125,816	15,611	79	264	52,226
North East	537,973	2,337	14	230	38,427
North West	1,079,837	4,868	33	222	32,722
South East	1,218,497	5,081	14	240	87,036
South West	576,759	2,789	11	207	52,433
West Midlands	1,613,873	4,235	18	381	89,660
Yorkshire	1,341,563	5,293	32	253	41,924

[1] Includes estimates for performances that were free or not ticketed.

These figures are based on the actual and estimated audiences of the 227 theatres that responded to the Arts Council survey in 2006-07.

The two national companies classified as theatre, the Royal Shakespeare Company (West Midlands) and the Royal National Theatre (London), are included within their regions.

Tourism: Per Capita Costs

Mr. Gray: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what the Government spending per capita on tourism in England was in each of the last 10 years. [264214]

Barbara Follett: In total, public sector funding for the financial year 2006-07, the latest date for which figures are available was approximately £350 million which includes funding from Visit Britain, Regional Development Agencies ("RDAs") and local authorities. Additional support for the tourism industry is also provided by Government in a variety of forms, such as skills and training for which approximately £500 million is made available annually. The amounts for which the DCMS is primarily responsible are channelled through Visit Britain, the RDAs and the Greater London Authority (GLA).

VisitBritain's funding for tourism is for Britain as a whole. VisitBritain have advised that they are unable to break that down into specific national components and as a result cannot disaggregate and supply per capita spend for England.

Estimates of central Government spending by VisitBritain, the RDAs and the GLA over the previous 10 years in support of tourism in England are as follows:

Estimated spending of central Government support for tourism by VisitBritain, RDAs and the GLA 1997-98 to 2007-08

	British Tourist Authority plus English Tourist Board/English Tourism Council[1]	*VisitBritain*	*Additional emergency funding following outbreak of FMD and events of 9/11*	*Regional Development Agencies spend*[2]	*Additional DCMS funding for London through GLA/LDA*[3]	*Total*
1997-98	44.7	—	—	—	—	44.7
1998-99	45.7	—	—	—	—	45.7
1999-2000	47.8	—	—	0.4	—	48.2
2000-01	48.0	—	—	1.1	—	49.1
2001-02	[4]45.1	—	[5]19.0	9.0	1.5	74.6
2002-03	—	47.1	—	7.0	1.9	56.0
2003-04	—	47.9	—	24.7	1.9	74.5
2004-05	—	48.4	—	n/k	1.9	n/k
2005-06	—	50.0	—	52.0	1.9	103.9
2006-07	—	50.0	—	43.5	1.9	95.4
2007-08	—	[6]49.75	—	44.0	1.9	95.7

[1] The BTA was responsible for overseas marketing. The ETB (re-named the ETC in 1999) for domestic support. The two were effectively amalgamated in 2002-03.

The ETB/ETC funded Regional Tourist Boards from its central grant up to 2002-03, and these figures are included in the BTA/ETB/ETC totals, as shown in table A:

[2] The RDAs were made responsible for regional tourism funding in 2002-03. The figures in this up to 2001-02 include grants to Regional Tourist Boards—in addition to those made by the ETC/ETB—as shown in table B.

[3] For London's "gateway" role. Not included in the RDA figures.

[4] The fall in 2001-02 is explained by the transfer of £1.6 million to the Greater London Authority to fund the capital's gateway role (subsequently increased to £1.9 million, as in note 3).

[5] Emergency funding from HMT, made available for the "Million Visitor Campaign" following FMD and 9/11.

[6] Includes an additional £0.75 million for flooding recovery work from August 2007.

Table A

	£ million
1997-98	4.7
1998-99	3.9
1999-2000	3.8
2000-01	4.8
2001-02	6.3
2002-03	5.7

Table B

	£ million
1999-2000	0.4
2000-01	1.1
2001-02	9.0

Video Games: Advertising

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport when he expects a revised code on advertising video games to be published. [267889]

Barbara Follett *[holding answer 30 March 2009]:* The Entertainment and Leisure Software Publishers Association (ELSPA) set up a working group to look at industry's codes for advertising in autumn 2008. Following that, a compliance survey carried out by the Advertising Standards Authority (ASA) showed that video games advertisements had a 99 per cent. compliance rate with the regulations. The existing guidelines were therefore found to be sufficient.

On 26 March 2009 the ASA published a consultation on a review of its own codes for broadcast and non-broadcast advertising. This proposes a restriction to prevent adverts for age-restricted computer and console games appearing around TV programmes likely to appeal to children. Once this consultation is complete and new codes are in place, ELSPA will reassess industry guidelines to ensure they are still fit for purpose.

HEALTH

Cannabis: Misuse

Mr. Walker: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many *(a)* teenagers and *(b)* people have been treated for addiction to cannabis in each of the last 15 years. [267674]

Dawn Primarolo: The National Drug Treatment Monitoring System (NDTMS), managed by the National Treatment Agency for Substance Misuse (NTA) since 2004-05, records data on people in drug treatment in England. Data on young people are only separately available from 2005-06 when the NDTMS started collecting data from all young people's services in England.

Persons presenting for treatment with cannabis as primary substance misused

	Young people (under 18 at triage)	*All persons (inc: under 18s at triage)*
2004-05	n/a	13,408
2005-06	9,043	21,101
2006-07	10,824	24,669
2007-08	12,021	26,287

Contraceptives

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health which primary care trusts fund non-latex condoms on prescription. [267880]

Dawn Primarolo: This information is not collected centrally. Non-latex condoms are a non-prescribable item and they do not appear in the Drug Tariff.

Deaf

Annette Brooke: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what support is available from his Department to deaf parents and their families. [264556]

Phil Hope: Deaf parents and their families are recognised as requiring support, as are all disabled parents and families. Local health bodies are responsible for commissioning health and social services to meet the needs of their local population and adult social services have an ongoing duty to support disabled parents, including deaf parents in carrying out their parenting role, ensuring that all disabled people have the same rights of access to social care and support as non-disabled parents.

The Government have a significant programme of work aimed at supporting parents in general, and a range of initiatives aimed at supporting groups of parents experiencing particular difficulties, such as deaf parents. The Parenting Implementation Project for example is developing good practice in relation to commissioning and implementing parenting and family support services.

Dental Services

Dr. Richard Taylor: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many *(a)* orthodontic units of activity were provided and *(b)* courses of orthodontic treatment were completed in each primary care trust area in (i) 2006-07 and (ii) 2007-08. [267947]

Ann Keen: The information requested could be provided only at a disproportionate cost.

Departmental Energy

Greg Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent progress his Department has made towards the target of increasing its energy efficiency per square metre of its Estate by 15 per cent. by 2010, relative to 1999-2000 levels; and if he will make a statement. [266879]

Phil Hope: The Department supports and aims to meet the Government's targets to reduce carbon emissions and improve the energy efficiency of the Government estate. While we have increased the efficiency (measured as consumption per m^2) of our gas usage, our energy consumption has increased over the period, due largely to our policy of closing buildings and concentrating more staff in our remaining estate.

The changes in energy efficiency of our buildings (measured in kWh per m^2) since 1999-2000, which is the earliest year for which figures are available, are:

		Percentage
	2007-08	*2006-07*
Gas/fuel oil	-15	-16
Electricity	+24	+29
Total	+9	+12

We have been working with the Carbon Trust over the past two years to identify energy saving measures, and this has been reflected in an improvement in our performance on energy efficiency in 2007-08, compared with 2006-07. We have a number of further initiatives planned, which should improve these figures further in the coming year.

Departmental Internet

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Health on how many occasions his Department's website has been temporarily unavailable due to a technical problem in each year since 2001. [268056]

Mr. Bradshaw: Prior to 21 June 2002 the Department's website was hosted by the Office of Government Commerce on shared servers. This service was shut down in 2002 and the required information is not available.

Between June 2002 and February 2004 the Department's website was hosted by EDS. Recording of periods of unavailability is not available from this hosting contract and it would incur disproportionate cost to provide this.

Between February 2004 to March 2007 the Department's website was hosted as part of a shared service run by the Office of the e-Envoy. During this period there were no occasions when the website was temporarily unavailable due to a technical problem.

In March 2007, the Department's website transferred to a new managed service, shared with Directgov. Since then, the Department's website has been temporarily unavailable due to a technical problems as follows: five occasions between March 2007 and December 2007, 11 occasions between January 2008 and December 2008 and four occasions from January 2009 to date.

Drugs: Advisory Services

Mr. Walker: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) which *(a)* drug charities, *(b)* drug bodies and *(c)* scientific authorities provide drug information to the drugs advice organisation, FRANK; [267677]

(2) how much funding was provided for the drugs advice organisation FRANK in the last 12 months; [267678]

(3) what training is provided for the advisers at the drugs advice organisation FRANK; and what qualifications such advisers are required to have. [267679]

Dawn Primarolo: The voluntary organisations which have provided advice to FRANK are: Adfam, the Scottish Drugs Forum and DrugScope. Scientific and other information about drugs and drug misuse treatment services has been provided by the National Treatment Agency for Substance Misuse, the Advisory Council on the Misuse of Drugs and the Forensic Science Service.

FRANK received approximately £2 million from the Department of Health in 2008-09. FRANK also received in the same year approximately £2.7 million from the Home Office and £1.8 million from the Department for Children, Schools and Families.

The Scottish Drugs Forum provides a comprehensive training programme for FRANK advisors to include a number of themes such as drugs and their effects, attitudes and awareness of drugs, how problematic drug use affects children and families and child protection. Only individuals who have worked in relevant settings, for example the drugs field, counselling, nursing or social work, and who have excellent communication skills are recruited to become FRANK advisors.

Drugs: Misuse

Dr. Gibson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many drug-related hospital admissions were attributable to each drug in class *(a)* A, *(b)* B and *(c)* C in the last 12 months for which figures are available. [267866]

Dawn Primarolo: This information is not collected centrally.

DrugScope: Finance

Mr. Walker: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much funding the charity DrugScope has received from the Government in each of the last 10 years. [267676]

Phil Hope: The following table shows the awards by the Department to DrugScope through the Section 64 General Scheme of Grants which funds voluntary organisations in England whose activities support the Department's policy priorities. Funding for DrugScope began in 2001-02 following the organisation's founding in 2000.

The figures do not include any payments made to DrugScope from other budgets held by the Department or other Government Departments in respect of services commissioned from DrugScope.

	Type of grant	*Amount (£)*
2001-02	Core	460,000
2002-03	Core	350,000
2002-03	Project	80,000
2003-04	Core	400,000
2004-05	Core	400,000
2005-06	Core	400,000
2006-07	Core	300,000
2007-08	Core	230,000
2008-09	Core	230,000

Hearing Aids

Mr. Holloway: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) which health authorities were re-testing digital hearing aids before the issue of guidance on the matter in 2007; [267671]

(2) whether he has issued target durations for re-testing of digital hearing aids. [267672]

Phil Hope: Information around which health authorities undertook pro-active re-testing of digital hearing aids before the issue of guidance on this matter in 2007 is not collected. The Department has no plans to issue target durations for the pro-active re-testing of digital hearing aids.

People are referred by their general practitioner to their local audiology clinic when they experience problems with their hearing and it is for local health professionals to determine and agree with an individual as to the type of hearing assistance that may be required. Re-assessment generally takes place after three years unless an individual experiences further hearing loss, in which case they may be re-assessed earlier.

Hospitals: Infectious Diseases

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 24 March 2009, *Official Report*, column 225W, on hospital-acquired infections, if he will place in the Library the dataset used to calculate the 65 per cent. reduction in methicillin resistant Staphylococcus aureus against the 2003-04 baseline. [267903]

Ann Keen: The data used to calculate the 65 per cent. reduction in methicillin resistant Staphylococcus aureus (MRSA) on the 2003-04 baseline were the October to December 2008 national quarterly data published by the Health Protection Agency (HPA).

These data show there were 676 reports in October to December 2008 and 7,700 reports in the baseline year 2003-04. This gives a quarterly average of 1,925 for the baseline year and 676 is a 65 per cent. reduction from this.

These data are publicly available from the HPA quarterly counts of MRSA for October to December 2008 and financial year reports of MRSA from 2001-02 to 2005-06, which can be found at:

www.hpa.org.uk/webw/HPAweb&HPAwebStandard/HPAweb_C/1233906819629?p=1191942169773

Learning Disability

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health when he plans to respond to the Health Service Ombudsman's Six Lives report. [268139]

Phil Hope: In 2007, following Mencap's report on the six deaths of people with learning disabilities, the former Secretary of State for Health commissioned Sir Jonathan Michael to carry out an Independent Inquiry into access to healthcare for people with learning disabilities. The report of that Inquiry—"Healthcare for All"—made 10 recommendations for improving access to healthcare for people with learning disabilities. A copy has already been placed in the Library. "Valuing People Now: a new three-year strategy for people with learning disabilities", which was published in January 2009, set out the Government's response to the Independent Inquiry's report and our acceptance of all 10 recommendations. A copy of the strategy has been placed in the Library.

We are saddened at the Ombudsman's report and the cases of all the people who died, particularly when up to two of the deaths could have been prevented. We welcome this report and accept its recommendations.

Access to high quality healthcare is a right, and is essential in enabling people to lead healthy, active and fulfilling lives. The Government are committed to supporting and protecting the human rights of people with learning disabilities. All people with a learning disability are people first, with the right to lead their lives like any others, with the same opportunities and responsibilities and to be treated with dignity and respect.

The action set out in "Valuing People Now", including a commitment to establishing a confidential inquiry to investigate premature deaths of people with learning disabilities, and the support we are providing at a local and regional level to improve training and awareness amongst health care staff will help people with learning disabilities to get access to the care they need. We have already introduced annual health checks for people with learning disabilities and on 12 March, we launched guidance for primary care staff to support individualised health plans for people with learning disabilities.

Malnutrition: Death

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many deaths from malnutrition have occurred in *(a)* private care homes, *(b)* public care homes and *(c)* hospitals in each Government Office region since 1997. [267475]

Kevin Brennan: I have been asked to reply.

The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated March 2009:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your recent question asking how many deaths from malnutrition have occurred in (a) private care homes, (b) public care homes and (c) hospitals in each Government Office Region since 1997. (267475)

The attached table provides the numbers of deaths in (a) private care homes, (b) public care homes and (c) hospitals in each government office region in England, for the years 1997 to 2007 (the latest year available).

Table 1. Deaths from malnutrition and effects of hunger,[1] private and public care homes and hospitals,[2] Government office regions in England,[3] 1997-2007[4]

Deaths (persons)

Government office region	*Place of death*	*1997*	*1998*	*1999*	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*
North East	Private care home	6	0	3	4	1	2	2	2	3	0	1
	Public care home	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Hospitals	16	13	15	17	19	21	21	9	12	26	16
North West	Private care home	4	2	3	8	1	3	5	4	2	1	3
	Public care home	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

Table 1. Deaths from malnutrition and effects of hunger,[1] private and public care homes and hospitals,[2] Government office regions in England,[3] 1997-2007[4]

Deaths (persons)

Government office region	*Place of death*	*1997*	*1998*	*1999*	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*
	Hospitals	27	32	24	19	23	29	23	31	28	24	35
Yorkshire and The Humber	Private care home	5	6	4	1	2	1	2	1	0	2	4
	Public care home	1	0	2	0	0	1	0	0	0	2	0
	Hospitals	24	15	20	22	17	18	26	16	14	20	21
East Midlands	Private care home	3	10	10	8	2	0	3	3	2	1	1
	Public care home	0	3	0	4	0	5	3	1	4	2	1
	Hospitals	10	15	15	17	12	14	15	15	21	23	22
West Midlands	Private care home	8	1	4	2	4	0	0	0	0	3	0
	Public care home	1	1	2	0	1	1	1	0	0	0	0
	Hospitals	42	26	38	38	19	46	35	39	25	31	41
East of England	Private care home	0	6	3	5	2	2	0	2	4	2	5
	Public care home	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Hospitals	19	18	27	18	25	27	16	19	30	22	18
London	Private care home	2	1	5	1	2	0	2	1	2	2	1
	Public care home	0	3	1	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Hospitals	22	27	27	23	18	21	19	14	11	17	24
South East	Private care home	6	6	1	5	2	0	1	6	2	6	2
	Public care home	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	1	0
	Hospitals	30	23	35	29	22	34	27	30	33	44	41
South West	Private care home	7	9	3	11	6	3	4	1	3	1	2
	Public care home	2	0	1	0	1	0	0	1	1	0	1
	Hospitals	19	23	23	31	14	20	16	26	21	32	24

[1] Cause of death was defined using the International Classification of Diseases, Ninth Revision (ICD-9) codes 260-269 (malnutrition) and E904.1 (effects of hunger) for the years 1997 to 2000, and the International Classification of Diseases, Tenth Revision (ICD-10) codes E40-E46 (malnutrition) and T73.0 (effects of hunger) for 2001 onwards. Deaths were included where one of these causes was mentioned anywhere on the death certificate. The introduction of ICD-10 in 2001 means that the numbers of deaths from each cause before 2001 are not completely comparable with later years.

[2] 'Private care home' includes non-NHS private nursing homes and private residential homes. 'Public care home' includes NHS private nursing homes and local authority residential homes. 'Hospital' includes NHS and non-NHS hospitals or multifunction sites, and military hospitals.

[3] Figures exclude deaths of non-residents.

[4] Figures are for deaths registered in each calendar year.

Medical Treatments Abroad

John Battle: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate he has made of the cost to the NHS of providing medical services to British citizens living abroad in each of the last 10 years. [267831]

Dawn Primarolo: Estimates of the costs of European Economic Area (EEA) healthcare claims are made annually for the purposes of provisions made in the Department's accounts in accordance with Treasury resource accounting rules. This information can be found in the following table. Comparable information prior to 2002 is not available.

The United Kingdom does not fund the cost of medical services provided to British citizens living in non-EEA countries.

EEA member state claims against the UK

	£000
2002-03	233,200
2003-04	273,909
2004-05	331,900
2005-06	404,100
2006-07	426,600
2007-08	550,300

Notes:
1. Totals are based on estimates of the costs of EEA healthcare claims made annually for the purposes of provisions made in the Department's accounts in accordance with Treasury resource accounting rules.
2. Figures represent lump sum claims under Articles 94 and 95 of EU Regulation (EC) 574/72. This covers claims relating to the family members of workers resident in a different member state from the worker and claims for pensioners and their dependents.
3. Totals are rounded to nearest £100,000.
4. Sub totals may not add up to totals due to rounding.
Source:
Resource Accounting and Budgeting (RAB) exercise

Members: Correspondence

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health when he plans to reply to the hon. Member for Eddisbury's letter of 23 April 2008, on Southern Cross. [267375]

Phil Hope: A reply was issued to the hon. Member on 9 June 2008.

Mental Health Services

Mr. Jenkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent steps he has taken to ensure the needs of mental health patients are met by specialist mental health services. [268094]

Phil Hope: Since 2001-02, real terms investment in adult mental health services has increased by 44 per cent. (or £1.7 billion), putting in place the services and staff needed to transform mental health services. Compared with 1997, we now have 64 per cent. more consultant psychiatrists, 71 per cent. more clinical psychologists and 21 per cent. more mental health nurses, providing better care for people with mental health problems (all full-time equivalent). More than 740 mental health teams provide specialist community mental health services, such as home treatment, early intervention, or intensive support for people who might otherwise be admitted to hospital.

General practitioners and consultant psychiatrists decide on the most appropriate treatment for their patients, and they are expected to take National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE) guidance fully into account. Doctors can prescribe any medicine or treatment which they consider to be necessary, including NICE-approved psychological therapies for severe mental illness, provided that the local primary care trust (PCT) or national health service trust agrees to supply it on the NHS. However, it is for PCTs to decide spending levels for specific health care treatments and services, including mental health, and to commission these services.

The Department revised Care Programme Approach (CPA) guidelines in 2008. Under CPA, each mental health service user should have an opportunity to be actively involved in agreeing their treatment plans with their care co-ordinator, wherever possible. This is not dependent on diagnosis, but may be affected by the severity of the condition at any particular time.

Mr. Jenkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent steps he has taken to ensure mental health conditions do not affect people's ability to access NHS services. [268095]

Phil Hope: The Department has implemented several measures to help ensure that people with mental health problems and physical illness can access national health service healthcare.

The NHS "Operating Framework" for 2009-10 includes a specific reference to the importance of physical health checks in primary care settings for people with a severe mental illness.

The draft standard NHS contracts for mental health services in 2010-11 onwards, which the Department published in 2008, give providers responsibility for arranging physical health checks for long term in-patients, call for annual improvement targets to be set locally, and suggest progress in improving physical health care as a subject for local reporting from provider to commissioner.

Guidance notes accompanying the standard contracts stress the importance of individualised needs assessments which address service users' physical health, and recommends local arrangements with primary care services to ensure health checks and inclusion in screening and health promotion activity for mental health service users.

The care programme approach (CPA) for people with complex mental health needs was revised last year. Under CPA, each mental health service user should have an opportunity to be actively involved in agreeing their treatment plans with their care coordinator, wherever possible. CPA describes a holistic approach covering quality of life, health checks, the physical effects of mental illness and psychiatric treatment and the effect of physical symptoms on mental well-being, smoking and obesity.

Mentally Incapacitated: Community Treatment

Lynne Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many second opinions for treatment under supervised community treatment have been *(a)* requested and *(b)* carried out under the Mental Health Act 1983. [268627]

Phil Hope: The Mental Health Act Commission has received 1,673 requests for second opinions for people on supervised community treatment since 3 November 2008 of which 98 were subsequently withdrawn. As at 31 March, 430 were recorded as having had all action completed. Information on the number of second opinions given but not yet recorded as completed is not available.

Lynne Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many community treatment orders have been *(a)* issued and *(b)* revoked under the Mental Health Act 1993; and how many patients have been (i) recalled to hospital while on a community treatment order and (ii) discharged from a community treatment order. [268628]

Phil Hope: The information requested is not yet available.

MMR Vaccine

Mark Pritchard: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will make an assessment of the merits of making provision for parents to have a choice over the means of vaccination of their children against measles, mumps and rubella under the NHS. [263220]

Dawn Primarolo: The United Kingdom has no policy of compulsory medication. The schedule for the UK routine childhood immunisation programme recommends two doses of the measles, mumps and rubella (MMR) vaccine. Consent for MMR vaccination of young children is given by a person with parental responsibility. Parents have the choice to refuse the vaccinations offered by the national health service.

MMR vaccine is the safest way to protect children against measles, mumps and rubella. The Department encourages parents to exercise their responsibility to participate in important public health programmes such as MMR vaccination.

The Department does not recommend single measles, mumps or rubella vaccines. The use of single vaccines leaves children at risk of catching measles, mumps or rubella in the time periods between doses of the vaccines, and a full course requires six injections rather than the two required for MMR vaccine. The single measles, mumps and rubella vaccines currently available privately in the UK are not licensed for use in the UK.

NHS: Complaints

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many complaints to the Healthcare Commission he expects to be outstanding on 1 April 2009; and whether such complaints will be referred to the Care Quality Commission. [268138]

Ann Keen: The Department of Health, the Healthcare Commission (HCC) and the Parliamentary and Health Service Ombudsman (PHSO) have worked closely together to ensure a smooth transition to the reformed complaints arrangements, which come into force on 1 April 2009.

In accordance with the casework transition plan agreed by the tripartite NHS Complaints Transition Board, there will be no complaints to the HCC outstanding on 1 April 2009. All cases being handled by the HCC have now been passed satisfactorily to the PHSO.

The Care Quality Commission will not intervene in individual NHS complaint cases, so no cases will be referred to it from the HCC.

NHS: Legal Proceedings

Mr. Ancram: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what guidance his Department issues to primary care trusts on their expenditure on legal proceedings. [260892]

Ann Keen: The Department has not issued guidance to primary care trusts on their expenditure on legal proceedings. Lord Justice Jackson is currently undertaking a review of the costs of civil litigation to ensure that they are appropriate and we will consider the results of the review when they are published later this year.

NHS: Pay

John Mason: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what consideration he has given to the merits of introducing a minimum wage of £7 per hour in the NHS in England and Wales in 2009-10. [268050]

Ann Keen: The 2009-10 pay uplift, the second year of the current three-year pay deal, for the majority of non-medical national health service staff, which has been reviewed by the independent NHS pay review body, means that the minimum wage in the NHS in England in 2009-10 will be £6.78 per hour. This is 18.3 per cent. higher than the statutory national minimum wage of £5.73 an hour. Pay for staff working in the NHS in Wales is a matter for the Welsh Assembly Government.

WORK AND PENSIONS

National Insurance Contributions

Steve Webb: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions pursuant to the answer of 25 November 2008, *Official Report*, column 1384W, on national insurance contributions, for what reason the estimates assume a 20 per cent. take-up rate; and if he will make a statement. [257081]

Ms Rosie Winterton: National Insurance contribution data were used to show which people had eligible blank years on their record since 1975.

We found that around half a million individuals reaching state pension age between 2008 and 2015 could increase their entitlement to basic state pension by purchasing deficient years from earlier in their working lives.

While basic state pension entitlement could increase, for some people overall income may not because of the interaction with income related benefits, such as pension credit, housing benefit and council tax benefit. Married women also need to consider how much state pension they are entitled to, based on their husband's record, and when they will get it.

Taking these factors into account, along with evidence from a previous Class 3 related exercise, our estimates assume a take-up of 20 per cent.

Pension Credit

Mr. Burstow: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people are eligible for pension credit; and what estimate he has made of the number of additional people who would become eligible if the tariff income were set according to the Bank of England base rate. [259601]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The latest estimates of the numbers entitled to means-tested benefits in Great Britain, covering income support, pension credit, housing benefit, council tax benefit and jobseeker's allowance (income based) are published in the report "Income Related Benefits Estimates of Take-Up in 2006-07".

The tariff income formula is not intended to represent any rate of return that could be obtained from investing capital. It provides a simple method of calculating the weekly contribution that people with capital in excess of £6,000 (£10,000 for those in care homes) are expected to make from their resources to help meet their normal living costs.

As there is no link with actual market rates, tariff income rules are not adjusted when interest rates change.

Revenue and Customs

Steve Webb: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions which benefit delivery centres serve residents of each *(a)* parliamentary constituency and *(b)* Jobcentre Plus district. [264519]

Mr. McNulty: The administration of Jobcentre Plus is a matter for the acting chief executive of Jobcentre Plus, Mel Groves. I have asked him to provide the hon. Member with the information requested.

Letter from Mel Groves:

The Secretary of State for Work and Pensions has asked me to reply to your question asking which benefit delivery centres serve residents of each *(a)* parliamentary constituency and *(b)* Jobcentre Plus district. This is something which falls within the responsibilities delegated to me as Acting Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus.

The geographical coverage of Jobcentre Plus Benefit Delivery Centres and districts is based on postcodes. A facility to match postcodes with Jobcentre Plus Benefit Delivery Centres and districts is available at:

http://www.jobcentreplus.gov.uk/JCP/Aboutus/Ouroffices/Search/LocalOfficeSearch.aspx.

The information requested is not collated centrally and could only be obtained at disproportionate cost.

Social Security Benefits: Interest Rates

Mr. Burstow: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions pursuant to the answer of 5 March 2009, *Official Report*, column 1798W, on social security benefits: interest rates, what factors he takes into account when determining the *(a)* capital limits and *(b)* tariff income rules; when his Department last (i) reviewed and (ii) consulted on the limits and the rules; and if he will make a statement. [264087]

Ms Rosie Winterton: In any income related benefit scheme there is a point at which people with capital will have to use their resources to maintain themselves before having recourse to public funds.

The current position is that for income support, employment support allowance (income related) and income-based jobseeker's allowance, the first £6,000 is disregarded (£10,000 for people permanently living in residential care and nursing homes). The upper capital limit is £16,000. For each £250 of capital (or part of £250) held between the appropriate lower and upper limits benefit is reduced by £1 per week.

For pension credit the first £6,000 is disregarded (£10,000 for people living in a care home). There is no upper capital limit. For each £500 (or part of £500) above the appropriate lower capital limit benefit is reduced by £1 per week.

Those customers in receipt of income support, employment support allowance (income related) and jobseeker's allowance (income based) or the guarantee credit element of pension credit will be passported on to full housing benefit and council tax benefit, regardless of the amount of capital held. For other claims to housing benefit and council tax benefit, capital of between £6,000 and £16,000 will affect entitlement at a rate of £1 per week for every £250 or part of £250 held over £6,000. For people who have reached the qualifying age for pension credit, benefit will reduce by £1 per week for each £500 or part of £500 on capital between £6,000 and £16,000.

The capital rules in income related benefits are kept under continual review but they can be increased only when priorities and resources allow.

Social Security Benefits: Interviews

Mrs. Dean: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what provisions are in place for employment and support allowance claimants to be accompanied by a support worker, parent or friend to *(a)* work capability assessment, *(b)* work-focused, health-related assessment and *(c)* work-focused interviews. [264042]

Mr. McNulty: All employment and support allowance customers who are asked to attend a work capability assessment and/or a work-focused health related assessment are sent a letter with their appointment details. The letter confirms that customers are free to bring another person with them to their assessment if they wish.

When arranging an appointment with the customer over the phone Atos Healthcare staff also advise customers who request that they would like to be accompanied at the assessment, that they can bring a companion with them and that if they have no one available to accompany them that Atos Healthcare can provide a chaperone.

Before a work-focused interview takes place, employment and support allowance customers are contacted by letter and by telephone and are informed that they can be accompanied. During the telephone contact, Jobcentre Plus staff also aim to identify any additional support that may be needed because of the customer's health condition.

State Retirement Pensions: EU Nationals

Mr. Willetts: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many EU citizens working in the UK paid sufficient national insurance contributions to earn a potential entitlement to the state pension in each year since 1997. [265049]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The information requested is not available as National Insurance contributions paid by migrants are not reported separately.

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Community Relations: Religion

Mr. Dhanda: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much funding her Department has provided for the Government's interfaith strategy. [267486]

Mr. Khan: We are committed to a three year programme of investment and support worth over £7.5 million, as announced in our interfaith framework "Face to Face and Side by Side". This will be invested with a focus on delivering increased opportunities for dialogue and social action within local communities.

Part of this funding will be specifically allocated to the "Faiths in Action" fund, which aims to support local activities and initiatives that have a direct link to one or more of the four building blocks described in "Face to Face and Side by Side": confidence and skills to bridge and link; shared spaces for interaction; structures and processes; and opportunities for learning. All types of organisations at national, regional or local level in England may apply for this funding.

The other funding is allocated to a programme of investment over three years in Regional Faith Forums to support and build their capacity, in particular their interaction with local inter faith activity.

Departmental Empty Property

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what estimate she has made of the change in the annual cost to her Department of maintaining the empty public buildings owned by her Department as a result of the April 2008 changes to empty property rate relief. [267140]

Mr. Khan: The additional cost in business rates resulting from the changes to empty business rate relief is estimated to be £11,400 in this financial year.

Departmental Energy

Greg Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what recent progress her Department has made towards the target of increasing its energy efficiency per square metre of its Estate by 15 per cent. by 2010, relative to 1999-2000 levels; and if she will make a statement. [266880]

Mr. Khan: The Department has already met the 2010-11 target of increasing energy efficiency per square metre of its estate by 15 per cent. relative to 1999-2000 levels. The following figures show the Department's performance in recent years:

Percentage

	Performance against baseline	
	2006-07	*2007-08*
Core Department	-6	-20
Executive agencies	-10	-16

Departmental Surveys

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer of 11 March 2009, *Official Report*, columns 549-50W, on departmental surveys, if she will place in the Library a copy of her Department's most recent staff survey *(a)* results and *(b)* analysis. [265256]

Mr. Khan: Results of all my Department's recent staff surveys, including the 2008 Pulse Survey, can be found on the Department's internet site at:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/corporate/about/howwework/corporatereports/reportsaccounts/staffsurvey

I have today placed in the Library a copy of the Power Point presentation prepared by Ipsos MORI on the results of the 2008 Pulse Survey.

Disabled Facilities Grants: Waltham Forest

Mr. Duncan Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what steps her Department is taking to end the suspension of the disabled facilities grants in Waltham Forest. [264794]

Mr. Iain Wright: Disabled facilities grant is a mandatory entitlement administered by local housing authorities under the Housing Grants, Construction and Regeneration Act 1996. The implications of the disabled facilities grant legal framework is that following an assessment of need the local authority is required to provide a disabled facilities grant subject to a means test and grant maximum. Suspending disabled facilities grants is not an acceptable means of budget management.

The Government have more than doubled the government funds available for the programme from £57 million in 1997 to £146 million in 2008 with an increase of £10 million in each of the next two years making the budget £166 million by 2010. For 2008-09 Waltham Forest received £630,000 in disabled facilities grant and an additional £47,000 was allocated to Waltham Forest last month. Local authorities are expected to prioritise these services and contribute towards the costs of disabled facilities grants as they have always done so.

Fires

Mr. Dismore: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many deaths there were resulting from *(a)* dwellings fires and *(b)* fires in other buildings in each (i) fire authority area and (ii) region in each of the last three years. [266401]

Mr. Khan: The number of deaths resulting from fires in dwellings and other buildings is shown in the table:

Fatal casualties in fires by location, England, 2005-07[1]

		2005		*2006*		*2007[1]*	
		Dwellings	*Other buildings*	*Dwellings*	*Other buildings*	*Dwellings*	*Other buildings*
England		299	28	287	48	246	27
North West	Cheshire	8	0	6	1	8	1
	Cumbria	2	0	3	0	5	0
	Lancashire	8	1	19	3	7	3

Fatal casualties in fires by location, England, 2005-07[1]

		2005		*2006*		*2007*[1]	
		Dwellings	*Other buildings*	*Dwellings*	*Other buildings*	*Dwellings*	*Other buildings*
	Greater Manchester	30	2	23	5	19	0
	Merseyside	15	2	4	1	6	0
North East	Cleveland	4	0	2	1	1	1
	Durham	4	1	5	0	0	0
	Northumberland	1	2	1	0	3	0
	Tyne and Wear	6	0	7	1	8	0
Yorks and Humberside	Humberside	4	1	1	1	3	3
	North Yorkshire	2	0	4	0	0	0
	South Yorkshire	13	0	9	1	7	1
	West Yorkshire	14	1	18	1	15	1
West Midlands	Hereford and Worcester	2	0	3	1	6	0
	Shropshire	2	1	5	0	1	0
	Staffordshire	3	1	9	0	8	3
	Warwickshire	3	0	0	0	0	4
	West Midlands	19	1	24	3	13	0
East Midlands	Derbyshire	2	0	1	0	4	0
	Leicestershire	3	0	6	0	4	3
	Lincolnshire	2	0	5	2	4	1
	Northamptonshire	3	1	5	2	3	0
	Nottinghamshire	6	1	7	0	3	0
East	Bedfordshire	4	1	4	0	1	0
	Cambridgeshire	2	0	5	0	4	0
	Essex	16	0	8	1	5	1
	Hertfordshire	4	0	4	1	1	0
	Norfolk	5	1	6	0	3	0
	Suffolk	3	0	4	0	5	0
South West	Avon	9	0	3	0	5	0
	Cornwall	4	1	1	1	2	0
	Devon	2	0	6	1	6	0
	Dorset	1	0	1	1	1	2
	Gloucestershire	1	0	2	0	5	0
	Somerset	2	0	3	0	4	0
	Wiltshire	0	0	2	0	2	0
	Isles of Scilly	0	0	0	0	0	0
South East	Berkshire	1	0	2	0	3	0
	Buckinghamshire	2	0	1	1	1	0
	East Sussex	1	0	5	3	5	0
	Hampshire	6	0	11	1	3	0
	Isle of Wight	1	0	1	0	1	0
	Kent	11	0	4	0	12	0
	Oxfordshire	2	0	4	0	3	0
	Surrey	4	1	4	2	3	0
	West Sussex	1	0	4	0	2	0
London	Greater London	51	5	37	13	41	3

[1] Provisional—data for 2007 are provisional and subject to change

Fires: Grasslands

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many grassland and heathland fires there were in each *(a)* fire authority and *(b)* region in each of the last three years. [266239]

Mr. Khan *[holding answer 24 March 2009]:* Information on the number of grassland and heathland fires attended by Fire and Rescue Services from 2005-07 is available as follows:

All grassland fires[1] [2], England, 2005-07

FRS area		*2005*	*2006*	*2007*[3]
England		50,893	66,162	37,043
North West	Cheshire	991	1,657	690
	Cumbria	457	502	360
	Lancashire	1,345	1,895	1,322
	Greater Manchester	1,863	3,104	1,365
	Merseyside	2,763	3,683	1,963
North East	Cleveland	1,171	1,706	1,066
	Durham	934	1,537	866
	Northumberland	332	481	372
	Tyne and Wear	1,565	2,914	1,569
Yorks and Humberside	Humberside	929	1,136	712
	North Yorkshire	360	476	316
	South Yorkshire	2,111	2,552	1,675
	West Yorkshire	2,282	2,945	1,521
West Midlands	Hereford and Worcester	521	803	422
	Shropshire	483	837	359
	Staffordshire	1,412	2,012	1,020
	Warwickshire	371	444	336
	West Midlands	4,244	6,751	2,851
East Midlands	Derbyshire	1,038	1,004	878
	Leicestershire	701	769	502
	Lincolnshire	458	617	482
	Northamptonshire	511	686	308
	Nottinghamshire	2,359	2,913	1,882
East	Bedfordshire	461	453	267
	Cambridgeshire	530	659	331
	Essex	2,218	2,518	1,432
	Hertfordshire	700	838	468
	Norfolk	444	1,016	452
	Suffolk	484	754	434
South West	Avon	1,474	1,485	1,042
	Cornwall	424	621	398
	Devon	554	857	532
	Dorset	879	737	491
	Gloucestershire	322	360	160
	Somerset	169	292	165
	Wiltshire	198	253	179
	Isles of Scilly	3	8	5
South East	Berkshire	698	824	386
	Buckinghamshire	262	341	182
	East Sussex	224	391	172
	Hampshire	1,654	2,268	1,384
	Isle of Wight	59	83	47
	Kent	1,472	1,470	698
	Oxfordshire	299	330	225
	Surrey	901	942	542
	West Sussex	400	447	334
London	Greater London	6,863	6,794	3,880

[1] Figures are partially based on sampled weighted data in 2006 and 2007.
[2] Includes primary and secondary fires.
[3] Data for 2007 are provisional and subject to change.

Housing

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government when her Department expects to publish figures on the net supply of housing for 2008-09. [268578]

Mr. Iain Wright: The net supply of housing release is an official statistic, and its publication is announced in advance on the UK statistics website.

At this stage we expect "Net Supply of Housing: 2008-09, England" to be published in February 2010.

Housing: Low Incomes

Mr. Duncan Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what steps her Department is taking to increase the number of affordable homes in Redbridge. [264793]

Mr. Iain Wright: I refer the right hon. Member to the answer I gave to the hon. Member for Reading, East (Mr. Wilson) on 18 March 2009, *Official Report*, column 1177W, on steps we are taking nationally to support the delivery of affordable housing.

Planning for affordable housing provision in Redbridge is primarily a matter for the borough and Mayor of London, who assess the housing requirements and potential of their areas. These studies provide evidence to inform both housing supply and affordable housing targets, for inclusion in their regional and local development plans.

The Mayor's London Plan published in 2008 sets an annual monitoring target to provide a minimum of 905 homes per year in Redbridge, and a strategic target that 50 per cent. of all additional housing in London should be affordable. Redbridge, through its core strategy, aspires to a target of 50 per cent. affordable housing on all sites over 10 dwellings or larger than 0.5 hectares.

As required by Government, the Mayor is currently up-dating the London-wide evidence base on housing requirements and potential, to inform both new housing supply targets, and longer-term affordable housing targets for London boroughs, for inclusion in a revised London Plan by 2012 at the latest.

Local Government: Devon

Mr. Streeter: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the cost was of the review of local government boundaries in Devon by the Boundary Committee on the latest date for which figures are available. [267511]

Sir Peter Viggers: I have been asked to reply.

The Electoral Commission informs me that the structural review in Devon has to date cost £376,549. This can be broken down into the following areas of expenditure:

Category of expenditure	£
Salaries (including local government consultant)	148,853
Consultation	36,262
Other costs:	
Financial consultants	89,872
Legal advice	88,047
Printing	9,379
Mapping	2,685
Couriers	321
Staff training	1,130
Total	376,549

Members: Correspondence

Sir Gerald Kaufman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government when she plans to reply to the letter to her of 26 January 2009 from the right hon. Member for Manchester, Gorton with regards to Ms K. Dowling. [268028]

Hazel Blears: I have now replied to my right hon. Friend's letter.

Renewable Energy: Planning

Mr. Streeter: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the evidential basis is for the statement in paragraph 76 of the technical annex to her Department's Planning for renewable energy: companion guide to PPS22 that shadow flicker effects have been proven to occur only within 10 rotor diameters of a turbine. [267874]

Mr. Iain Wright: The statement derives from research carried out by A. D. Clark and originally reported in "A Case of Shadow Flicker/Flashing: Assessment and Solution", by Clarke, A. D. (1991), for the Open University.

Roads: Planning Permission

Mr. Letwin: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what duties local planning authorities have to require developers to construct private roads to specific standards. [266086]

Mr. Iain Wright: Local planning authorities have no duties to require developers to construct private roads to specific standards. It may, however, be possible for the authority to require such roads to be constructed to a specific (e.g. adoptable) standard by means of conditions attached to the planning permission.

Social Rented Housing

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what percentage of homes built for social rent had *(a)* one, *(b)* two, *(c)* three and *(d)* four or more bedrooms in each year since 1997. [266481]

Mr. Iain Wright: A table will be placed in the Library of the House which shows the percentage of social rented homes through the Homes and Communities Agency's Affordable Housing Programme by the number of bedrooms. These figures are only available from the Homes and Communities Agency Investment Management System (IMS), so will not cover total social rent new build figures.

Not all social rented housing is provided through new build completions, supply can also come from the acquisition and refurbishment of private sector homes. In 2007-08, a total of 29,370 additional social rented homes were provided.

Temporary Accommodation: Floods

Nick Herbert: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many people affected by summer floods in 2007 remain in temporary accommodation. [267548]

John Healey: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave to the hon. Member for Vale of York (Miss McIntosh) on 15 December 2008, *Official Report*, columns 363-64W.

WOMEN AND EQUALITY

Departmental Disciplinary Proceedings

David Simpson: To ask the Minister for Women and Equality how many staff in the Government Equalities Office *(a)* were disciplined and *(b)* had their employment terminated as a result of a poor sickness record in each of the last 12 months. [262223]

Maria Eagle: No staff have been disciplined or had their employment terminated as a result of a poor sickness record.

Rape: Victim Support Schemes

Mrs. May: To ask the Minister for Women and Equality (1) how much funding the Government have provided to rape crisis centres *(a)* in 2008-09 and *(b)* in each year since 1997; [261036]

(2) which rape crisis centres receive Government funding; how much funding each *(a)* has received in 2008-09 and *(b)* will receive in 2009-10; [261037]

(3) which rape crisis centres that previously received funding from the Government have not received any such funding in 2008-09. [261039]

Maria Eagle: Government does not hold a record of rape crisis centres (members of Rape Crisis England and Wales, or its predecessor bodies) in existence over this period of time. As with other membership organisations, membership of Rape Crisis England and Wales, and its predecessors, has changed over time. There are also organisations which use the phrase 'rape crisis' in their organisational name, but which are not members of Rape Crisis England and Wales. This means it is difficult to be exact in identifying rape crisis centres separately from those sexual violence voluntary sector organisations which have received central Government funding. These factors make it difficult to provide exact totals of funds provided to rape crisis centres.

Taking the above into account, the total of grants awarded from the Victims' Fund, Home Office funding for independent sexual violence advisors (ISVAs) and the special fund to rape crisis centres, for *(a)* 2008-09 and *(b)* each year prior to this where records are available are set out in the following table.

Table 1:

	Total (£)
2004-05	[1, 2]199,270
2005-06	[1, 2]543,607
2006-07	[1, 3]631,038
2007-08	[3]862,315
2008-09	[4]1,744,089

[1] Please note that the starred figures include grants provided to the umbrella organisation, Rape Crisis Co-ordination Group, a predecessor to Rape Crisis (England and Wales).

[2] Victims' Fund.

[3] Victims' Fund and Home Office (ISVA) funding.

[4] Victims' Fund, Home Office (ISVA) funding and Special Fund.

Approximately £50,000 in funding was provided to two rape crisis centres, Southampton and South Essex rape and incest crisis centre, over the period 2000-02.

These figures revise those provided to PQ174510 of 23 January 2008 and PQ255614 of 24 February. I have written to the hon. Members concerned.

The following table provides the approximated total of grants awarded to the umbrella organisation for years where records are available:

Table: 2

	Total (£)
2008-09	[1]167,685
2007-08	[2]75,000
2006-07	[3]30,000
2005-06	[3]30,800
2004-05	[3]18,200
2002-03	[4]432,000
2001-02	[4]406,000

[1] Home Office and Government Equalities Office.

[2] Home Office.

[3] Victims' Fund.

[4] Central Government.

There is no record of funding prior to this.

Tables of grants provided under the different funding streams for the years where records are available have been placed in the Commons Library. They provide *(a)* a full list of recipients of victims' fund grants *(b)* a full list of ISVA grant recipients and *(c)* a full list of special fund grant recipients. Tables will show which organisations received funding in which years, including grants provided in the current financial year (2008-09).

For the next financial year (2009-10):

> we have recently announced a £1.6million cross-Government fund for the sexual violence voluntary sector (members of Rape Crisis (England and Wales) and The Survivors Trust). Grants to individual groups will be made in due course;
>
> the Tackling Violence Action Plan published in 2008 includes a commitment to ensure all victims have access to an ISVA by 2011 and a new bidding round will be announced shortly;
>
> Victims' fund arrangements for 2009-10 will be announced shortly.

The tables of grants placed in the Commons Library show:

> approximately twelve rape crisis centres which did not receive Victims' Fund support in 2008-09 had received grants from the fund in previous years;
>
> two rape crisis centres which had had independent sexual violence advisors in 2007-08 did not have ISVAs in 2008-09.

Individual grant recipients, including members of Rape Crisis England and Wales can be identified from the tables. As already noted, Government does not hold records of the membership of Rape Crisis England and Wales, or its predecessor bodies. Therefore, it is not possible to be definitive regarding which rape crisis centres (members of Rape Crisis England and Wales) did or did not receive grants in any given year.

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Agriculture

Mr. Paice: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many farm holdings there were in each agricultural sector in each county in each year since 1997. [264560]

Jane Kennedy: I have placed in the House Library tables showing the number of registered holdings by farm type and county in England for 1997-2008. Figures prior to 2000 are for main holdings only. From 2000 onwards main and minor holdings are included. The farm type categories were altered in 2004. A register improvement exercise in 2001 and the introduction of the Single Payment Scheme in 2005 has lead to an increase in the number of registered holdings.

Figures for Wales are available from the Welsh Assembly Government.

Mr. Roger Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what estimate he has made of the number of *(a)* livestock, *(b)* dairy and *(c)* arable farmers in each region in each of the last three years; and if he will make a statement. [266453]

Jane Kennedy: The following tables show the number of farmers, partners and directors by farm type based on predominant activity in England regions for 2006-08.

Total farmers by farm type (based on predominant activity) in England

2006

Region		*Cereals*	*General Cropping*	*Horticulture*	*Specialist Pigs*	*Specialist Poultry*	*Dairy*
North East	Holdings	1,003	104	116	50	185	196
	Total Farmers	1,642	174	189	74	266	380
North West	Holdings	670	520	790	163	647	2,990
	Total Farmers	1,036	966	1,306	252	992	6,423
Yorkshire and The Humber	Holdings	2,987	1,434	624	413	771	1,156
	Total Farmers	4,788	2,511	970	570	1,103	2,387
East Midlands	Holdings	4,065	1,516	807	198	685	975
	Total Farmers	6,190	2,457	1,326	281	903	1,936
West Midlands	Holdings	2,098	1,058	1,268	214	744	1,945
	Total Farmers	3,245	1,902	2,059	327	1,055	3,905
Eastern	Holdings	5,384	2,959	1,406	440	834	203
	Total Farmers	8,062	4,617	2,231	609	1,111	346
South East (inc London)	Holdings	3,205	558	1,822	258	838	654
	Total Farmers	4,696	910	2,869	341	1,290	1,178
South West	Holdings	2,951	653	2,413	459	1,447	4,509
	Total Farmers	4,269	1,115	3,785	658	2,192	9,150
England	Holdings	22,363	8,802	9,246	2,195	6,151	12,628
	Total Farmers	33,929	14,654	14,734	3,111	8,911	25,706

Region		*Grazing Livestock (LFA)*	*Grazing Livestock (lowland)*	*Mixed*	*Other*	*All Types*
North East	Holdings	1,469	768	522	2,509	6,922
	Total Farmers	2,606	1,160	930	1,046	8,467
North West	Holdings	3,452	3,341	857	10,007	23,437
	Total Farmers	5,790	5,268	1,521	3,560	27,113
Yorkshire and The Humber	Holdings	2,832	2,286	1,344	7,752	21,599
	Total Farmers	4,764	3,413	2,408	3,066	25,981
East Midlands	Holdings	906	3,034	1,147	8,240	21,573
	Total Farmers	1,456	4,530	2,014	3,091	24,183
West Midlands	Holdings	1,593	5,004	1,607	10,680	26,211
	Total Farmers	2,676	7,666	2,912	3,866	29,613
Eastern	Holdings	0	2,235	1,003	8,215	22,679
	Total Farmers	0	3,139	1,708	3,491	25,312
South East (inc London)	Holdings	0	5,482	1,421	12,628	26,866
	Total Farmers	0	8,310	2,332	5,998	27,923
South West	Holdings	2,414	10,744	2,935	22,569	51,094
	Total Farmers	3,976	16,820	5,167	8,045	55,177
England	Holdings	12,666	32,894	10,836	82,600	200,381
	Total Farmers	21,266	50,306	18,991	32,163	223,770

2007

Region		*Cereals*	*General Cropping*	*Horticulture*	*Specialist Pigs*	*Specialist Poultry*	*Dairy*
North East	Holdings	1,025	103	110	60	172	160
	Total Farmers	1,687	165	164	84	256	308
North West	Holdings	769	594	761	186	636	2,529
	Total Farmers	1,165	1,034	1,206	280	942	5,358
Yorkshire and The Humber	Holdings	3,227	1,315	625	433	719	960
	Total Farmers	4,993	2,230	892	588	1,038	1,987
East Midlands	Holdings	4,229	1,438	766	220	705	847
	Total Farmers	6,206	2,215	1,197	294	931	1,577
West Midlands	Holdings	2,295	999	1,240	245	746	1,599
	Total Farmers	3,503	1,702	1,916	361	1,154	3,126

2007

Region		*Cereals*	*General Cropping*	*Horticulture*	*Specialist Pigs*	*Specialist Poultry*	*Dairy*
Eastern	Holdings	5,522	2,808	1,352	462	860	197
	Total Farmers	7,983	4,246	2,016	620	1,074	301
South East (inc London)	Holdings	3,236	572	1,778	298	787	579
	Total Farmers	4,580	856	2,654	391	1,217	950
South West	Holdings	3,262	736	2,308	549	1,567	3,778
	Total Farmers	4,700	1,171	3,449	800	2,390	7,475
England	Holdings	23,565	8,565	8,940	2,453	6,192	10,649
	Total Farmers	34,818	13,619	13,494	3,418	9,002	21,082

Region		*Grazing Livestock (LFA)*	*Grazing Livestock (lowland)*	*Mixed*	*Other*	*All Types*
North East	Holdings	1,488	795	475	2,904	7,292
	Total Farmers	2,529	1,136	790	1,281	8,400
North West	Holdings	3,652	3,307	715	10,935	24,084
	Total Farmers	5,806	4,754	1,216	4,637	26,397
Yorkshire and The Humber	Holdings	2,894	2,385	1,191	8,709	22,458
	Total Farmers	4,582	3,275	2,120	3,715	25,421
East Midlands	Holdings	941	2,986	1,030	9,098	22,260
	Total Farmers	1,403	4,097	1,692	3,[illegible]2	23,434
West Midlands	Holdings	1,628	5,048	1,370	12,049	27,219
	Total Farmers	2,538	7,241	2,512	5,041	29,095
Eastern	Holdings	0	2,165	866	9,215	23,447
	Total Farmers	0	2,924	1,435	4,050	24,650
South East (inc London)	Holdings	0	5,354	1,212	14,282	28,098
	Total Farmers	0	7,713	1,974	7,049	27,383
South West	Holdings	2,422	10,728	2,426	25,532	53,308
	Total Farmers	3,798	15,639	4,136	10,663	54,223
England	Holdings	13,025	32,768	9,285	92,724	208,166
	Total Farmers	20,657	46,779	15,875	40,258	219,004

2008

Region		*Cereals*	*General Cropping*	*Horticulture*	*Specialist Pigs*	*Specialist Poultry*	*Dairy*
North East	Holdings	1,069	100	121	67	175	149
	Total Farmers	1,716	155	181	90	257	291
North West	Holdings	814	591	746	206	717	2,403
	Total Farmers	1,240	1,007	1,146	318	1,076	5,130
Yorkshire and The Humber	Holdings	3,387	1,192	635	435	792	925
	Total Farmers	5,196	2,003	899	602	1,159	1,909
East Midlands	Holdings	4,310	1,358	768	229	756	785
	Total Farmers	6,294	2,091	1,129	304	977	1,488
West Midlands	Holdings	2,374	966	1,246	264	835	1,510
	Total Farmers	3,594	1,633	1,823	376	1,280	2,944
Eastern	Holdings	5,668	2,611	1,336	472	925	188
	Total Farmers	8,061	3,922	1,969	651	1,159	282
South East (inc London)	Holdings	3,231	586	1,812	339	900	551
	Total Farmers	4,515	882	2,667	449	1,364	911
South West	Holdings	3,344	720	2,382	588	1,706	3,601
	Total Farmers	4,786	1,151	3,450	835	2,605	7,167
England	Holdings	24,197	8,124	9,046	2,600	6,806	10,112
	Total Farmers	35,402	12,843	13,263	3,625	9,877	20,122

Region		*Grazing Livestock (LFA)*	*Grazing Livestock (lowland)*	*Mixed*	*Other*	*All Types*
North East	Holdings	1,493	786	450	3,039	7,449
	Total Farmers	2,458	1,080	756	1,415	8,399
North West	Holdings	3,680	3,340	753	11,180	24,430
	Total Farmers	5,733	4,781	1,299	4,839	26,569
Yorkshire and The Humber	Holdings	2,927	2,395	1,163	8,892	22,743
	Total Farmers	4,497	3,209	2,044	3,957	25,476
East Midlands	Holdings	943	3,028	993	9,342	22,512
	Total Farmers	1,383	4,066	1,631	4,070	23,433
West Midlands	Holdings	1,613	5,003	1,412	12,326	27,549
	Total Farmers	2,490	7,038	2,539	5,378	29,095
Eastern	Holdings	0	2,170	850	9,455	23,675
	Total Farmers	0	2,901	1,401	4,205	24,550
South East (inc London)	Holdings	0	5,383	1,219	14,423	28,444
	Total Farmers	0	7,490	1,968	7,312	27,557
South West	Holdings	2,359	10,680	2,515	25,823	53,718
	Total Farmers	3,633	15,263	4,276	11,260	54,425
England	Holdings	13,015	32,785	9,355	94,480	210,520
	Total Farmers	20,194	45,827	15,915	42,436	219,505

Notes:

(a) Total farmers includes full and part time farmers, partners, directors and spouses if working on the holding.

Source:

June Agriculture Survey

Mr. Roger Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what estimate he has made of the number of *(a)* sheep, *(b)* cattle and *(c)* pigs in each region in each of the last three years; and if he will make a statement. [266454]

Jane Kennedy: The following tables show the number of sheep, cattle and pigs by region in England at June each year for 2006-08.

(a) Sheep numbers

	2006	*2007*	*2008*
North East	1,937,418	1,935,131	1,942,443
North West	3,020,311	2,969,866	3,010,555
Yorkshire and The Humber	2,182,891	2,161,907	2,189,533
East Midlands	1,254,989	1,235,414	1,221,495
West Midlands	2,310,435	2,270,858	2,262,634
Eastern	343,076	354,705	360,095
South East (inc London)	1,367,876	1,346,358	1,362,784
South West	3,256,412	3,162,338	3,185,675
England Total	15,673,409	15,436,577	15,535,215

(b) Cattle numbers

	2006	*2007*	*2008*
North East	289,272	285,764	276,496
North West	990,344	964,647	951,233
Yorkshire and The Humber	601,956	582,795	561,989
East Midlands	525,601	519,102	502,945
West Midlands	789,463	760,198	741,252
Eastern	220,425	220,385	213,425
South East (inc London)	469,017	461,098	454,740
South West	1,853,164	1,803,569	1,784,397
England Total	5,739,243	5,597,559	5,486,477

(c) Pig numbers

	2006	*2007*	*2008*
North East	82,175	85,319	86,148
North West	162,063	160,269	152,889
Yorkshire and The Humber	1,334,973	1,238,776	1,254,688
East Midlands	423,030	418,436	407,698
West Midlands	224,907	235,283	222,480
Eastern	1,070,400	1,065,986	1,041,441
South East (inc London)	272,007	259,321	242,604
South West	487,877	480,055	446,441
England Total	4,057,433	3,943,444	3,854,388

Source:

June Agricultural Survey and Cattle Tracing System

Mr. Roger Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what estimate he has made of the number of *(a)* sheep flocks, *(b)* cattle herds and *(c)* pig herds in each region in each of the last three years; and if he will make a statement. [266455]

Jane Kennedy: The following tables show the number of holdings recording sheep, cattle and pigs by region in England at June each year for 2006-08.

(a) Holdings with sheep

	2006	*2007*	*2008*
North East	2,805	2,570	2,567
North West	7,223	6,504	6,556
Yorkshire and The Humber	6,271	5,690	5,733
East Midlands	4,429	3,991	4,042
West Midlands	7,731	7,009	7,017
Eastern	2,625	2,340	2,378

(a) Holdings with sheep

	2006	2007	2008
South East (inc London)	6,052	5,403	5,514
South West	12,929	11,681	11,793
England Total	50,065	45,189	45,600

(b) Holdings with cattle

	2006	2007	2008
North East	2,400	2,372	2,315
North West	8,124	7,991	7,721
Yorkshire and The Humber	6,253	6,161	5,917
East Midlands	5,168	5,114	4,959
West Midlands	7,739	7,482	7,191
Eastern	2,785	2,785	2,670
South East (inc London)	5,219	5,163	4,966
South West	16,091	15,640	15,068
England Total	53,779	52,707	50,807

(c) Holdings with pigs

	2006	2007	2008
North East	237	240	238
North West	724	758	785
Yorkshire and The Humber	1,533	1,491	1,456
East Midlands	853	878	887
West Midlands	956	975	994
Eastern	1,442	1,439	1,423
South East (inc London)	1,335	1,342	1,418
South West	2,548	2,563	2,571
England Total	9,628	9,686	9,772

Source: June Agricultural Survey and Cattle Tracing System

Agriculture: Foreign Workers

Damian Green: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what meetings he and his officials have had with Home Office officials on the availability of non-EU sheep shearers in summer 2009. [266386]

Jane Kennedy: No meetings on this matter have taken place between DEFRA and the Home Office. However, DEFRA and Home Office officials have discussed this issue with UK industry representatives separately.

Animal Welfare: Training

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what guidance his Department has issued to local authorities on the provision of training in animal welfare to staff. [266963]

Jane Kennedy: DEFRA offers a wide range of comprehensive guidance and training programmes to local authorities on animal welfare.

In 2006-07, DEFRA arranged a number of training seminars for local authority officers to help explain new powers under the Animal Welfare Act 2006. Guidance was also issued on the use of improvement notices under the 2006 Act.

More recent examples include:

9 January 2008, The Welfare of Animals During Transport;

10 November 2008, Control of Animal By-Products, and;

11 March 2009, Stock Assessment: Lambing

We have also arranged a Stock Assessment: Dairy Cattle course for 30 April 2009.

Bees: Research

Mr. Roger Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if he will meet the British Beekeepers Association to discuss honey bee health research; and if he will make a statement. [266389]

Jane Kennedy: I met the British Beekeepers' Association (BBKA) on 2 February to discuss bee health research following my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State's announcement on 21 January on the allocation of more funding by DEFRA in this area. This funding forms part of a wider programme of research into threats to pollinators including honeybees, the details of which are currently being finalised with the other funders. Once these discussions have been concluded, my officials will be arranging meetings with the BBKA and other interested parties to discuss the programme in more detail.

Bluetongue Disease: Vaccination

Mr. Martyn Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps he plans to take to take to increase awareness of *(a)* bluetongue and *(b)* the bluetongue vaccination in the farming community. [264049]

Jane Kennedy: DEFRA raises awareness of Bluetongue disease, and the benefits of vaccination against it, through the regularly updated Bluetongue web pages and through its ongoing communications to livestock keepers through livestock market road shows, Farming Link magazine and through the support it offers to the industry-led Joint campaign Against Bluetongue (JAB).

The agreed approach of the awareness raising campaign is that Government provide updates on the disease risks, numbers of cases in UK and on the continent, and that industry leaders are the primary communicators to encourage vaccination. JAB includes a wide range of livestock and veterinary organisations, including the companies producing the vaccines, and supported by DEFRA.

DEFRA also updates wider stakeholders through regular meetings, and encourages industry to use these messages in their own communications with their members. The Chief Veterinary Officer or Deputy Chief Veterinary Officer will also raise awareness of the disease and promote vaccination in talks or interviews.

Mr. Martyn Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what plans the Government has to encourage the use of the surplus stock of short-dated bluetongue vaccine in the next 12 months. [265845]

Jane Kennedy: Vaccination in England and Wales is voluntary. In line with the Core Group of industry stakeholders, we believe that mass vaccination can be best—and most rapidly—achieved through a voluntary approach, supported by an industry-led communications campaign promoting the benefits of vaccination.

DEFRA raises awareness of Bluetongue disease, and the benefits of vaccination against it, through the regularly updated Bluetongue web pages and through its ongoing communications to livestock keepers through livestock market road shows, Farming Link magazine and through the support it offers to the industry-led Joint campaign Against Bluetongue (JAB).

Bovine Tuberculosis: Disease Control

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what training he plans to provide for those undertaking the vaccination of wildlife to reduce levels of bovine tuberculosis. [267482]

Jane Kennedy: Those undertaking vaccination will be suitably trained and accredited in all the skills necessary to perform the role. This will include expertise in trapping and injecting badgers as well as other skills such as sett identification.

Chemicals: EU Law

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what amendments his Department proposed to the EU Directive on the Registration, Evaluation and Authorisation of Chemicals during its drafting. [266960]

Huw Irranca-Davies: Negotiations to agree the final legal text of the EU REACH Regulation (no. 1907/2006) covered a three-year period, from October 2003 to December 2006. DEFRA led for the UK during the negotiations, working alongside other Government Departments and taking account of industry and NGO views. The aim throughout was to secure a robust and workable regulation that balanced the interests of industry with a high level of protection for human health and the environment.

Between July and December 2005 the UK held the presidency of the European Union, and during this time developed the text which secured political agreement as the Council's Common Position following the first reading in the European Parliament. A significant initiative put forward jointly by the UK, known as 'One Substance, One Registration' (OSOR) was incorporated into the Common Position. This was assessed at the time as potentially providing savings in registration costs for UK industry of up to €128 million over the 10-year registration period, compared with the original Commission estimates.

During the second reading negotiations in the second half of 2006, the UK strongly supported initiatives to require substitution plans for hazardous chemicals subject to authorisation, and measures to further reduce animal testing and encourage development and use of non-animal alternative methods.

Defence Estates: Floods

Nick Herbert: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many sites owned by the Ministry of Defence in England and Wales have been assessed by the Environment Agency as vulnerable to flooding. [267549]

Mr. Kevan Jones: I have been asked to reply.

I am replying because risk assessment on Ministry of Defence (MOD) sites is a matter for the MOD. The Environment Agency has not made any assessment of the vulnerability of specific MOD sites to flooding. However, MOD uses data published by the Environment Agency to assess the general level of flood risk to its sites, but does not collate this centrally. We are augmenting this data by developing the means to assess the significance of impacts that a changing climate or an extreme climate event, including flooding, could have on MOD sites. Results of these assessments will then influence site planning and development, location and design of buildings, and will inform site plans to enable risks to be managed effectively.

Departmental Billing

Mr. Oaten: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what percentage of its suppliers his Department has paid within 10 days of receipt of invoice in the last four months. [264930]

Huw Irranca-Davies *[holding answer 20 March 2009]:* The information for the core-Department is as follows:

	Percentage
November 2008	33.1
December 2008	77.4
January 2009	99.8
February 2009	99.8

Departmental Official Hospitality

Mr. Rob Wilson: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what his Department's entertainment budget was in each of the last five years. [261104]

Huw Irranca-Davies: The core-Department's financial system does not have an expenditure category for entertainment.

Departmental Press

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what his estimate is of the expenditure of his Department on newspapers, magazines and periodicals in each year since 1997. [261191]

Huw Irranca-Davies: DEFRA was created in June 2001. Its expenditure on newspapers, magazines and periodicals since then through its library services is set out as follows:

	£
2001-02	118,160
2002-03	91,095
2003-04	60,480
2004-05	66,546
2005-06	67,141
2006-07	72,000
2007-08	64,747

These figures exclude the spend on newspapers, magazines and periodicals by DEFRA local offices and the Department's Executive agencies. These figures could be compiled only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Public Appointments

Julia Goldsworthy: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs which former *(a)* hon. Members who have left Parliament since 1997 and *(b)* Members of the House of Lords from each party have been appointed to positions on public bodies within his Department's responsibility; and who made each appointment. [267542]

Huw Irranca-Davies *[holding answer 27 March 2009]:* This information is not held centrally. Information on board membership and remuneration is published in individual bodies' annual reports and accounts.

Departmental Surveys

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs pursuant to the answer of 17 March 2008, *Official Report*, column 1007W, on departmental surveys, if he will place in the Library a copy of his Department's most recent staff survey. [265659]

Huw Irranca-Davies: Staff surveys are valuable tools used by Departments to help them improve performance. The results of the 2005 DEFRA survey are available on the civil service website at:

http://www.civilservice.gov.uk/management/statistics/news/staff_survey/index.asp

The results of the pilot Civil Service Employee Engagement Survey in which DEFRA is participating are expected to be produced as a consolidated external publication in June 2009. The DEFRA results from the pilot will be published later in the year following communication and feedback from staff.

Departmental Temporary Employment

Justine Greening: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what his Department's policy is on the renewal of the contracts of *(a)* temporary and *(b)* agency staff. [264287]

Huw Irranca-Davies: The core-Department's policy on the renewal of the contracts of *(a)* temporary and *(b)* agency staff is to consider any such renewal in accordance with business need, value for money, the public procurement rules and the consolidated employment legislation.

Dog Wardens: Finance

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what funding his Department has provided to local authorities to fund the work of dog wardens in each of the last five years. [266962]

Huw Irranca-Davies: DEFRA does not fund the work of dog wardens. In accordance with the Environmental Protection Act 1990, local authorities are required to appoint an officer for the purpose of dealing with stray dogs found in their locality.

With the commencement of section 68 of the Clean Neighbourhood and Environment Act 2005 in April 2008, which relieves the police of the responsibility of dealing with stray dogs, additional funding of £4 million a year has been provided to local authorities in England and Wales through the Revenue Support Grant to cover additional costs of providing an out-of-hours service for stray dogs.

Fisheries

Mr. Gale: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what information his Department holds on the number of small fishing craft which have been taken out of service in England under the capping scheme and have been registered in *(a)* Scotland and *(b)* Northern Ireland in the last 12 months; and if he will make a statement. [267892]

Huw Irranca-Davies *[holding answer 31 March 2009]:* 25 inshore vessels have applied to change port from English to Scottish and Northern Ireland ports in the last 12 months[1]. However to date only 15 have completed the process, six of which transferred to Northern Ireland and the rest to Scotland. This is out of nearly 2,500 English registered inshore fleet vessels.

This is an average of two vessels re-registered monthly, with a steady level of activity. In comparison four vessels have re-registered from Scotland into England over the same period.

Since the English licence capping system was implemented on 9 February 2009, there has been a slight increase in vessels changing port (four vessels in March). However, it is not possible to establish whether this directly stems from the licence capping scheme. This information is not captured as part of the change of registered port process.

[1] Data supplied by Marine and Coastguard Agency.

Food Supply

Mr. Roger Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what his most recent estimate is of the level of UK food self-sufficiency; and if he will make a statement. [266558]

Jane Kennedy: In 2008, the UK was 60.3 per cent. self-sufficient in all food and 72.9 per cent. self-sufficient in indigenous food. These figures were published for the first time on 26 March 2009 in Agriculture in the United Kingdom. These figures are provisional.

Food: Packaging

Mr. Roger Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent discussions he has had with supermarkets on food *(a)* packaging waste and *(b)* labelling; and if he will make a statement. [263903]

Jane Kennedy: As part of the development of the Packaging Strategy DEFRA held two stakeholder workshops last year which were attended by retailers as well as other industries involved in the packaging chain.

We are currently in discussions with supermarkets through the Courtauld Commitment, which is a voluntary agreement between the Waste and Resources Action Programme (WRAP) and major UK grocery organisations. This led to zero growth in packaging in 2008 despite increases in sales and population.

WRAP and the Food Standards Agency held a joint workshop earlier this year, with representatives from the food industry, consumer groups, and UK Government Departments to discuss how we can help improve consumer understanding and confidence of date labels and food storage. WRAP research has revealed that as much as 3 million tonnes of food is not being stored in the best way, or is being thrown away due to confusion over date labels.

In addition to this retailers are represented on both the Advisory Committee on Packaging and the Packaging Recycling Action Group which discuss a range of issues concerning packaging and packaging waste.

My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State and I also met the supermarkets on 21 January to encourage them to improve origin labelling of food and to comply with the FSA guidance on origin labelling, so that the information on the label is clear and accurate and does not confuse consumers.

Food: Waste Disposal

Mr. Roger Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps his Department is taking to reduce the amount of food waste sent to landfill; and if he will make a statement. [263910]

Jane Kennedy: The Government are focused on reducing the amount of food being wasted by producers, retailers and consumers; and by encouraging better management through environmentally friendly treatment of food waste where prevention is not possible, to minimise the amount that reaches landfill.

The Government are helping reduce the amount of food being wasted through their ongoing work with the Waste and Resources Action Programme (WRAP) to cut significantly the amount of food wasted in the supply chain and in the home. This requires a twin-track approach—working closely with retailers and manufacturers, and also directly with households. The two main programmes contributing to this work are the 'Courtauld Commitment' and the 'Love Food Hate Waste' campaign.

Not all food waste can be prevented, and the Government have been actively promoting and providing support for greater uptake of anaerobic digestion (AD), a proven renewable energy technology, as a sustainable option for unavoidable food waste that would otherwise go to landfill. AD offers a considerable climate change benefit through avoided landfill methane emissions, with the energy generated also offsetting fossil fuel power generation, and counting towards our renewable energy targets. There are currently 37 local authorities that have separate food waste collections. These collections are expected to become more widespread in the future.

Lighting: Business

Stephen Hesford: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what estimate he has made of the number of businesses which have begun to use energy-efficient light bulbs in the last four years. [267478]

Jane Kennedy: Neither DEFRA nor DECC hold the information requested.

Meat

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what classification his Department gives to meat from animals fed on non-organic feedstuffs. [266045]

Jane Kennedy: EU organic standards permit a proportion of conventionally produced ingredients (10 per cent. until the end of 2009 and then 5 per cent. until the end of 2011) to be included in feed for organic pigs and poultry when organically produced ingredients are not available. Permission to use conventional ingredients in feed for organic pigs and poultry will cease after 2011 and its equivalent for organic ruminants has already ceased.

DEFRA has received an approach from some organic organisations seeking permission for organic farmers to feed their livestock entirely on conventionally produced feed in return for not selling their product as organic, while retaining organic status for the future as market conditions improve. It is not possible to allow this within the rules on organic production applying across the EU. An informal consultation on the proposal indicated that there was limited support for it.

Nitrate Vulnerable Zones

Mr. Ancram: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent estimate he has made of the costs to farmers arising from implementation of the EU Nitrates Directive. [265202]

Huw Irranca-Davies: The Nitrate Pollution Prevention Regulations (2008), which implement the EU Nitrates Directive in England, increase the area designated as nitrate vulnerable zones (NVZs) to approximately 70 per cent. of the country and tighten the mandatory Action Programme of measures that apply within these zones. The Impact Assessment estimates the total annual cost to farmers of complying with the Regulations to be £48.5 million to £68.6 million. With the recent success of the UK's request for a derogation from the livestock manure Nitrogen farm limit, one of the more demanding requirements set by the directive, these costs could be reduced by £16.9 million to £21.7 million per annum.

The Impact Assessment can be downloaded via:

http://www.opsi.gov.uk/si/si2008/em/uksiem_20082349_en.pdf

Special Areas of Conservation: Cumbria

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what progress has been made on the proposed designation of Bolton

Fell Moss Site of Special Scientific Interest as a Special Area for Conservation under the EU Habitats Directive as a degraded raised bog capable of natural regeneration; and if he will make a statement. [267345]

Huw Irranca-Davies: Bolton Fell Moss candidate Special Area of Conservation (cSAC) has not yet been formally adopted by the Commission as a Site of Community Importance (SCI). We expect that process to be finalised towards the end of the year. My Department will then institute the necessary procedures to formally designate this site as a Special Area of Conservation (SAC) under the Habitats Directive.

Stray Dogs

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what estimate he has made of the number of stray dogs in each of the last five years. [266964]

Huw Irranca-Davies: DEFRA does not hold data on numbers of stray dogs. Local authorities are required to keep records relating to the stray dogs they take in and are available for inspection by the public, free of charge.

Tourism: Rural Areas

Mr. Ellwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what funding is provided by his Department to promote rural tourism. [267579]

Huw Irranca-Davies *[holding answer 27 March 2009]*: The Department for Culture Media and Sport, DCMS has lead responsibility for supporting or promoting rural tourism.

However, the Rural Development Programme for England 2007-13, a joint EU-DEFRA funded programme, provides support to improve quality of life in rural areas and diversify the rural economy. This includes support to encourage rural tourism. Over the seven year life of the programme around €38 million (around £35 million) has been allocated to this measure.

Water Companies: Credit

Mr. Roger Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment he has made of changes to credit ratings for water supply companies in the last six months; what assessment he has made of the effect of such changes on the viability of such companies; and if he will make a statement. [266912]

Huw Irranca-Davies: Ofwat, as economic regulator of the water and sewerage sector in England and Wales, monitors the financial performance of the regulated water companies.

It is our view that the finances of water companies are in good shape. There have been no changes to the credit ratings of the regulated water companies, with the exception of Yorkshire Water where it was downgraded by one credit rating agency, Standard and Poors, from A- to BBB. Standard and Poors clearly cite company specific issues relating to delays in the implementation of a new capital structure as the reason for the downgrade. However, it is noted that, to date, Yorkshire Water has maintained its A3 rating with another credit rating agency, Moodys.

The regulatory regime operated by Ofwat includes a number of safeguards that protect the interests of customers of water companies should they get into financial difficulties. For example, there is the cash lock-up procedure which prohibits transfers out of the regulated business when a company's credit rating goes below a certain threshold.

Water: Fees and Charges

Tim Farron: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what estimate his Department has made of the number of households who have spent more than three per cent. of their disposable income on water bills in each of the last 10 years. [268009]

Huw Irranca-Davies *[holding answer 31 March 2009]*: No such estimate has been made by my Department. However, estimates have been made by the Department for Work and Pensions.

HOME DEPARTMENT

Animal Experiments

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many proposals were made under the Animals (Scientific Procedures) Act 1986 to use animals in procedures in 2008; and how many of these proposals were accepted. [266957]

Mr. Malik: During 2008 735 project licences were applied for under the Animals (Scientific Procedures) Act 1986. Of these 665 have now been granted, 61 are still being dealt with and nine are not being proceeded with.

A feature of the regulatory regime under the 1986 Act is the discussion that often takes place at an early stage between applicants (or prospective applicants) and the Animals (Scientific Procedures) Inspectorate. When serious deficiencies are discovered with the proposals during these early discussions with the local inspectors this means that proposals unlikely to meet the Act's stringent requirements are revised or withdrawn before formal refusal becomes necessary.

Anti-terrorism Control Orders

Patrick Mercer: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer of 12 January 2009, *Official Report*, column 275W, on control orders, whether her Department has made subsistence payments to *(a)* the individual referred to in the answer and *(b)* other individuals subject to a control order in 2009. [264681]

Mr. Coaker: The individual mentioned in the answer of 12 January 2009, who was assessed as being ineligible for employment related benefits for a short period as a result of the terms of his control order, did receive subsistence payments from the Home Office. I refer the hon. Member to the information in that previous PQ answer for a breakdown of these subsistence payments.

Other individuals subject to control orders have also received subsistence payments as part of the asylum support arrangements while subject to control orders.

Asylum: Expenditure

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much expenditure her Department has incurred in removing unsuccessful asylum seekers from the United Kingdom in each of the last five years. [242775]

Jacqui Smith *[holding answer 16 December 2008]*: It is not possible to provide a comprehensive figure for the overall cost of removals and deportations over a specified period of time because there are many different factors which may or may not be involved in the cost of a case (such as detention costs, travel costs, and the cost of escorting the individual in question). We are unable to disaggregate the specific costs and any attempt to do so would incur disproportionate cost.

Binyam Mohamed

Mr. Blunt: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) what assessment she has made of the threat to UK security of the return to the UK of Binyam Mohamed; and if she will make a statement; [258910]

(2) whether conditions have been *(a)* placed on and *(b)* agreed with Binyam Mohamed upon his return to the UK; and whether conditions have been attached to his freedom of (i) movement and (ii) action once in the UK. [258911]

Mr. Coaker *[holding answer 26 February 2009]*: The decision to request the release and return of Mr. Mohamed was taken in light of work by the US government to reduce the number of those detained at Guantanamo with the aim of closing the facility and our wish to offer practical and concrete support to those efforts. In reaching this decision full consideration was given of the need to maintain national security and the Government's overriding responsibilities in this regard. I cannot comment on individual cases but it goes without saying that full consideration has been given to national security.

Mr. Swire: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the Answer of 11 March 2009, *Official Report*, column 463W, on Binyam Mohamed, when she expects to be able to confirm the residency status of Mr. Mohamed. [264599]

Mr. Woolas: We do not discuss the immigration status of individuals. However, as with any foreign national, consideration will be given as to whether their presence in the United Kingdom is conducive to the public good and, as always, all appropriate steps will be taken to protect national security.

Criminal Records Bureau

Mr. Oaten: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer of 10 March 2009, *Official Report*, column 311W, on vetting: finance, under what budgetary headings the £88.2 million was spent; and what office accommodation is used by the Criminal Records Bureau for the processing of checks. [264214]

Mr. Malik: Information on expenditure has been published in the Criminal Records Bureau's (CRB) annual report and accounts 2007-08 which was laid before Parliament on 21 July 2008.

The CRB uses office accommodation at three sites for processing Disclosure applications. Two of these sites are based in Liverpool, Merseyside and the third is in Darwen, Lancashire.

Departmental Public Appointments

Julia Goldsworthy: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department which former *(a)* hon. Members who left Parliament since 1997 and *(b)* Members of the House of Lords from each party have been appointed to positions on public bodies within her Department's responsibility; and who made each appointment. [266790]

Mr. Woolas *[holding answer 26 March 2009]*: This information is not held centrally. Information on board membership and remuneration is published in individual bodies' annual reports and accounts.

Deportation: Rwanda

Mr. Oaten: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what assessment the Government have made of the safety of former Rwandan rebels after repatriation to Rwanda. [260599]

Mr. Woolas *[holding answer 4 March 2009]*: The UK Border Agency does not routinely monitor the treatment of individuals once they are removed from the UK. However, if specific allegations are made that any returnee to Rwanda, or any country, has experienced ill-treatment on return from the UK, then these are investigated through the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) as a matter of urgency.

Detainees: Children

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many of those in immigration removal centres are *(a)* under five, *(b)* between five and 10, *(c)* between 11 and 16 and *(d)* between 16 and 18 years old. [264520]

Jacqui Smith: National Statistics on children detained solely under Immigration Act powers on a snapshot basis are published quarterly. This information is published in tables 9-11 of the Control of Immigration: Quarterly Statistical Summary, United Kingdom bulletins which are available from the Library of the House and from the Home Office's Research, Development and Statistics website at:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/immigration-asylum-stats.html

Entry Clearances: Tourism

Hugh Bayley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many applications for tourist visas were *(a)* received and *(b)* granted in the latest year for which figures are available; what the average length of time was for processing a tourist visa in that period; and how much it costs to apply for a tourist visa in respect of (i) the US, (ii) Canada, (iii) Australia, (iv) Japan, (v) India and (vi) China. [264304]

Mr. Woolas: The number of applications received in 2008 for tourist (non-family visit) visas, and the number of such visas issued, in each of the countries listed is shown in the following table:

Non-family visit visas

Country	*Applications received*	*Visas issued*
United States	34,797	31,436
Canada	4,087	3,047
Australia	1,980	1,442
Japan	1,870	1,667
India	186,028	161,390
China	90,738	84,216

Processing times for non-family visit visa applications in these countries in the last quarter of 2008 are given in the following tables:

Non-family visit visa processing times October to December 2008—straightforward applications

Percentage

	Days		
	5	*10*	*15*
United States	50.50	94.40	99.00
Canada	99.25	100.00	100.00
Australia	9.25	13.75	77.75
Japan	90.25	97.50	99.00
India	71.50	98.50	99.75
China	93.85	98.25	98.83

Non-family visit visa processing times October to December 2008—non-straightforward applications

Percentage

	Days		
	5	*10*	*15*
United States	16.75	65.60	84.80
Canada	63.50	88.50	93.50
Australia	11.75	27.75	56.00
Japan	49.75	83.75	92.00
India	36.60	80.50	95.25
China	62.40	88.50	95.95

A straightforward application can be decided on the basis of the application and the supporting documents submitted without the need for further inquiries or more detailed scrutiny. A non-straightforward application requires more time to be decided, for example if more detailed inquiries or a personal interview are needed.

UK visa fees are standard throughout the world. The current fees were introduced on 1 April 2008. The fee for a standard six month visit visa is £65 (previously £63) and for longer term visit visas (valid for one, two or five years) is £205 (previously £200).

Fines

Mr. Dunne: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what steps her Department is taking to increase the proportion of fines collected under *(a)* fixed penalty notices and *(b)* penalty notices for disorder. [266155]

Mr. Alan Campbell *[holding answer 24 March 2009]:* The payment rate for fixed penalty notices (FPNs) for traffic offences is 85 per cent. (98 per cent. for endorsable offences).

When PNDs and FPNs, apart from FPNs issued under the conditional offer FPN system, remain unpaid, they are registered as fines and come under the fines collection system. (If a conditional offer FPN is unpaid, the person concerned will be prosecuted).

Once registered as fines unpaid, FPNs/PNDs are not tracked separately from fines imposed by the courts. HM Court Service can therefore not provide information about their particular enforcement outcome.

Foreign Workers

Mr. Ellwood: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much her Department had spent on seminars provided by the UK Border Agency for businesses on the recruitment of migrant workers on the latest date for which figures are available. [264365]

Mr. Woolas *[holding answer 18 March 2009]:* The UK Border Agency (UKBA) has spent £37,065 during FY 2008-09 on events and seminars to raise organisations' awareness of the stringent new sponsorship and compliance requirements they must meet to become a registered sponsor under the new Points-Based Migration System.

These costs include seminars for both employers and for educational institutions wishing to sponsor overseas students under the new Points Based System. They also include UKBA holding consultative meetings with key stakeholder groups including our three "Taskforces" (Joint Education Taskforce; Employer Taskforce; and Arts and Entertainments Taskforce).

Hezbollah

Mr. Ancram: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what criteria are used to distinguish between the military and political wings of Hezbollah for the purposes of specifying proscribed organisations. [265485]

Mr. Coaker: The elements of Hezbollah which meet the criteria for proscription under section 3 of the Terrorism Act 2000 are listed in Schedule 2 to that Act. The relevant entry proscribes "the military wing of Hezbollah, including the Jihad Council and all units reporting to it (including the Hezbollah External Security Organisation)". Those parts of Hezbollah which do not fall within the Schedule 2 entry are not proscribed.

The External Security Organisation (ESO) of Hezbollah was originally proscribed in 2001. In July 2008 this was extended to cover the entire military wing after evidence emerged of units not limited to the ESO being concerned in terrorism, particularly in the provision of training and support to militant groups in Iraq and other terrorist groups in the Occupied Palestinian Territories.

In distinguishing between the political and military wings for the purposes of proscription, the Government's aim is to proscribe only those parts of Hezbollah which are directly concerned in terrorism, while recognising the legitimate political, social and humanitarian activities undertaken by other parts of Hezbollah.

House of Commons: Right of Search

Mr. Cash: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if she will obtain and place in the Library a copy of *(a)* the synopsis and *(b)* the full report of Sir Ian Johnston of the British Transport Police into the entry into and search of the parliamentary office of the hon. Member for Ashford (Damian Green). [257301]

Mr. Coaker: I refer the hon. Member to my answer to the hon. Member for North Essex (Mr. Jenkin) on 10 February 2009, *Official Report*, column 1830W.

Identity and Passport Service: Marketing

Damian Green: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much funding the Identity and Passport Service allocated for publicity and promotional purposes in its budget for 2008-09. [267453]

Mr. Malik: IPS forecasts it will spend £618,000 for publicity and promotional purposes in 2008-09.

Immigrants

Mr. Frank Field: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether it is her Department's policy to classify non-UK born UK nationals as non-immigrants when they are living within the UK. [262054]

Mr. Woolas *[holding answer 9 March 2009]:* There are six categories of British national: British citizens, British overseas territories citizens, British Overseas citizens, British National (Overseas), British subject and British protected person. British citizenship and British overseas territories citizenship derive from a personal or ancestral connection with the United Kingdom or one of the remaining British overseas territories. The other statuses derive, in the main, from similar connections with a former British colony, or a foreign territory which was formerly under British jurisdiction.

Only British citizens and certain British subjects have the right of abode in the United Kingdom. The others are subject to UK immigration control, although British overseas territories citizens who derive that status from a Gibraltar connection enjoy certain rights of free movement and establishment under the EC Treaty. As regards entry to the United Kingdom, other types of British national are not treated any differently to those of any other nationality when it comes to settlement. They have to qualify under the immigration rules in the same way as any other applicant.

Immigration: Manpower

Damian Green: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer of 4 March 2009, *Official Report*, column 1638W, on immigration: manpower, how much her Department paid to *(a)* the French authorities and *(b)* private companies in 2008. [263264]

Mr. Woolas: The figures for the amount paid to *(a)* French authorities and *(b)* private companies in relation to Border Force operations in France for period 2007-08 are as follows:

(a) French authorities: £41,100

(b) Private companies: £6.7million

These figures are taken from the latest period for which financial accounts are available.

Members: Correspondence

Mr. Steen: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when she plans to reply to the letters from the hon. Member for Totnes of 24 November 2008 and 22 January 2009 on advice to the Government on the implementation of the Council of Europe Convention on Action Against Trafficking in Human Beings. [260378]

Mr. Alan Campbell *[holding answer 4 March 2009]:* A reply was sent on 19 March 2009.

Sir Gerald Kaufman: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when she plans to reply to the letter of 26 January 2009 from the right hon. Member for Manchester, Gorton, with regard to Mr. Mohammad Nadeem. [266374]

Jacqui Smith: I wrote to my right hon. Friend on 26 March 2009.

Police: Surveillance

Mr. Rob Wilson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) how much each police force spent on overt surveillance operations in each of the last five years; [266581]

(2) how much has been spent by each police force on *(a)* gathering and *(b)* storing (i) film and (ii) data on (A) protesters and (B) media coverage of protests in each of the last five years. [266582]

Mr. Coaker: This information is not held centrally by the Home Office.

Terrorism

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) what the *(a)* total cost and *(b)* cost per person to train UK workers to respond to a terrorist threat was in each of the last three years; and if she will make a statement; [267050]

(2) what estimate she has made of the number of people trained to deal with a terror attack in *(a)* urban, *(b)* suburban and *(c)* rural areas; and if she will make a statement. [267051]

Mr. Coaker: The number of people trained to deal with a terrorist attack and the costs of their training are not held centrally. Training for staff who may be involved in responding to a terrorist attack in the UK is widespread and is delivered across a number of Government agencies and departments and by the private sector, including the owners and managers of public facilities, transport operators and managers and those responsible for maintaining the national infrastructure.

The police National Counter Terrorism Security Office (NaCTSO) through local police Counter Terrorism Security Advisers (CTSAs) deliver "Project Argus", a scenario based training event to businesses to help them identify and recover from a terrorist attack. "Project Argus" is a series of products that is delivered by NaCTSO and CTSAs and is free at the point of delivery. "Project Argus" is one of a number of activities undertaken by NaCTSO and CTSAs and it is not possible to identify separate costs for running Project Argus events.

Terrorism: Crime Prevention

Patrick Mercer: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) pursuant to the Answer of 16 December 2008, *Official Report*, columns 583-4W, on community relations, how much police forces in England and Wales have spent on Prevent-related projects and activities to date; [262010]

(2) if she will place in the Library a copy of the Association of Chief Police Officers' Strategy and Delivery Plan, referred to on page 49 of The Prevent Strategy: A Guide for Local Partners in England; [262107]

(3) what proportion of the money which has been allocated to police forces under the Prevent strand of Project Contest for 2008-09 has been spent on *(a)* recruiting, *(b)* training and *(c)* paying community engagement and counter terrorism intelligence officers; [262119]

(4) how much police forces under the Prevent strand of Project Contest for 2008-09 *(a)* have been allocated for 2008-09 and *(b)* is planned to be allocated for 2009-10 to each of the 24 police forces; how those police forces were selected; and how many community engagement and counter terrorism intelligence officer appointments have so far been made. [262124]

Mr. Coaker: Under the Comprehensive Spending Review (CSR) funding arrangements 2008-09 to 2010-11 OSCT are providing additional funding to establish over 300 new police posts across the country dedicated to the Prevent agenda. In 2008-09 we have costed around £12 million across 24 priority forces, and regional Counter Terrorism Units and Counter Terrorism Intelligence Units, the distribution of which was based on an assessment of population vulnerability and evaluated intelligence cross matched to the Department of Communities and Local Government's Preventing Violent Extremism areas. This includes provision for police officer and police staff training. Figures on recruitment costs are not held centrally.

ACPO have advised that to date 154 Community Engagement and Counter-Terrorism Intelligence Officers have been appointed.

We have also made the following funding available to the police this year to roll out police led Prevent programmes:

£1 million for the Channel Project.

£3 million for the 24 priority police forces to work with Government Offices and other partners to support PREVENT work in schools and education institutions including higher and further education.

A joint funding package of £480,000 from the Home Office and the Department for Children Schools and Families (DCSF) was given to The Association of Chief Police Officers (ACPO) to pay for the copyright of The Kids Taskforce Watch Over Me DVDs for three years supplemented by 60 training days for teachers and partners.

£1,263,632 to police forces and local authorities, for 13 police led projects relating to Objectives two and three (supporting vulnerable institutions and vulnerable individuals) of the Prevent Strategy.

£100,000 for ACPO national Prevent Conferences.

£82,178 to ACPO for national communities tension monitoring.

£4,598,961 to support the work of the National Prison's Intelligence Unit and Prison Intelligence Officers and Analysts within Special Branches of individual forces.

In addition, the police have invested their own resources into Prevent activity at a force and regional level.

Discussions about allocation of CSR resource and funding for police led Prevent Programmes in 2009-10 are ongoing.

I have been advised by ACPO that their Prevent Strategy and Delivery Plan is protectively marked as a restricted document, however, they have produced an unrestricted version of their Implementation plan: 'Prevent: The Policing Response to the Prevention of Terrorism and Violent Extremism' which they have made available to you. I have also arranged for copies to be placed in the House Library.

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Departmental Buildings

Dr. Pugh: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what buildings are owned or operated by his Department under a private finance initiative (PFI) arrangement; and which companies are involved with each such PFI arrangement. [267408]

Mr. Thomas: The Department for International Development (DFID) has no buildings owned or operated under a private finance initiative (PFI) arrangement.

Departmental Press

Mr. Scott: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development (1) how many *(a)* speeches and *(b)* articles were prepared for Ministers in his Department by the Department's News Department in 2008 referred to on page 31 of his Department's communications strategy; [267350]

(2) if he will publish a list of the stories proactively placed in national newspapers by his Department's News Department in 2008 referred to on page 31 of his Department's communications strategy. [267347]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: Ministerial speeches and articles are published on the Department's web-site:

www.dfid.gov.uk.

DFID regularly updates national newspapers on aspects of its work.

Mr. Scott: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how many people are employed in his Department's *(a)* News Department and *(b)* Strategic Communications Department (i) with each job title, (ii) at each civil service grade and (iii) in each pay band; and if he will make a statement. [267351]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: I refer the hon. Member to the 'White Book' published by the Central Office of Information (COI).

Mr. Scott: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development (1) if he will place in the Library a copy of the forward planning grid for 2009 of his Department's *(a)* News Department and *(b)* Strategic Communications Department; [267460]

(2) if he will place in the Library a copy of the unclassified version of his Department's strategic communications planning team's DFID News Diary for *(a)* the week commencing 12 January 2009 and *(b)* the week commencing 6 April 2009 referred to on page 31 of his Department's communications strategy; [267346]

(3) if he will place in the Library a copy of the checklist for preparing announcements, events, publications and speeches prepared by his Department's strategic communications planning department referred to on page 31 of his Department's communications strategy. [267348]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: The Department for International Development's (DFID) forward planning grid, news diaries and checklist for preparing announcements, publications and speeches are for internal planning purposes only.

Departmental Public Expenditure

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how much capital spending is planned to be brought forward by his Department to *(a)* 2008-09 and *(b)* 2009-10. [266292]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: No capital expenditure has been brought forward.

Sri Lanka: Internally Displaced Persons

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what recent steps the Government have taken to assist displaced persons in Sri Lanka. [267222]

Mr. Thomas: The UK Government have repeatedly pressed at the very highest levels that both parties to the conflict abide by their fundamental obligations under international humanitarian law and that the quantity and frequency of food and other relief shipments to the conflict areas be increased urgently.

To strengthen international humanitarian response in Sri Lanka we are working closely in support of the UN in setting up a new multi-donor emergency response fund. This will be managed by the UN to provide a rapid response to assist displaced people. DFID has committed £5,000,000 of humanitarian assistance since September 2008. This has been used in the following ways:

£1,500,000 to the International Committee of the Red Cross for relief supplies such as food and plastic sheets for shelter and medical staff to treat the injured;

£1,000,000 to Office of the UN Humanitarian Co-ordinator for Refugees for activities such as overseeing the registration of internally displaced people (IDPs) and advocating to the Government of Sri Lanka for better conditions in camp settlements;

£250,000 has been committed to the International Organisation for Migration for tracking and logistical services;

£250,000 has been committed to the World Food Programme for food delivery and logistical services to other organisations such as non-governmental organisations (NGOs);

£335,000 has been committed to IOM for emergency assistance in IDP camps.

£750,000 is under consideration for UN Office for the Co-ordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) for setting up the multi donor Sri Lanka emergency response fund which will give funds quickly to NGOs once established; and

£915,000 remains on hand ready to be flexibly programmed as the situation demands on the ground.

DEFENCE

Armed Forces

Mrs. Curtis-Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) how many non-UK citizens are *(a)* seconded to and *(b)* being trained by the British Army; how many in each case are from each foreign country; how long on average the (i) training programmes and (ii) secondments are; and what the (A) average cost and (B) objectives of each are; [267355]

(2) how many British Army personnel are *(a)* being trained by and *(b)* seconded to military forces outside the UK; where they are located; and what the purpose of these attachments is. [267356]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: Given the many forms of secondment and training undertaken, involving over 100 countries and ranging, in terms of size, from individuals attending staff courses, through British military advisory and training teams, to the training being given by British Army units in Iraq and Afghanistan, the statistical information requested for average costs and lengths of secondment and courses is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Similarly, the specific objectives of each secondment and training course are not held centrally but the principal objective is to use British Army assets in peacetime to discourage hostility abroad, build and maintain trust between states, facilitate inter-operability between British and overseas armed forces, develop and sustain alliances, provide partner nations with the skills to undertake peace support and counter-terrorism operations, and assist in the development of democratically accountable armed forces; thereby helping to make a significant contribution to conflict prevention and resolution.

The provision of training is also undertaken for income generation purposes but all offers of training are made only where they comply with wider Government policy on engagement and the relevant security restrictions applying to each country.

Armed Forces: Discrimination

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) what steps the Government are taking to ensure women are not discriminated against in the armed forces; [267686]

(2) what steps the Government are taking to ensure members of ethnic minorities are not discriminated against in the armed forces. [267687]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The armed forces aim to create a working environment free from harassment, intimidation and unlawful discrimination in which everyone is not only valued and respected, but encouraged to realise their full potential, regardless of race, ethnic origin, religion, gender, social background or sexual orientation. All complaints of discrimination or harassment are taken seriously, investigated thoroughly and, when proven, dealt with robustly.

The Departmental Equality and Diversity Scheme 2008-11, published in 2008, sets out the Ministry of Defence strategy for meeting our statutory duties on equality and diversity. Education is central to the drive to promote awareness of diversity and equality and to eliminate unacceptable behaviour. Equality and diversity training is undertaken at the Joint Equality and Diversity Training Centre and widely across all three Services. Other measures include: confidential advice and support helplines; trained equal and diversity advisers in every unit; guidance, videos and briefings on diversity issues. Progress made by the armed forces in promoting racial equality was recognised when all three Services finished in the top 10 public sector employers in Race for Opportunity's annual benchmarking report.

An independent Service Complaints Commissioner for the Armed Forces took up her appointment on 1 January 2008. The Commissioner has the power to refer allegations of discrimination, harassment, bullying, and dishonest, improper or biased behaviour to the chain of command for action. The role of the Commissioner is to provide scrutiny and assurance that the complaints process is working effectively and that lessons are learned and changes implemented.

Armed Forces: Health Services

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the average interval between operational tours for each medical regiment was in the latest period for which information is available. [265136]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: Army Medical Regiments are deployed on operations in the close support role, as part of a wider medical framework that is provided by the Medical Group.

The Medical Group can be commanded by any of the three single Services with sub-unit sized elements from the Royal Navy and the Royal Air Force. The Territorial Army also makes a significant contribution to the Medical Group, particularly in the hospital role. The provision of medical capability determines the composition of the Medical Group rather than being defined by a Medical Regiment, which could deploy as a whole or in part as a component of the Medical Regiment. As such, calculating the tour interval for these units does not appropriately reflect the dynamic manner in which they are deployed or indeed provide insight as to the effect on individual Service Personnel who are trickle posted through these units.

Armed Forces: Housing

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what estimate he has made of his Department's expenditure on upgrading of service family accommodation in 2008-09; and what estimate he has made of such expenditure in each of the next five years. [266352]

Mr. Kevan Jones: Approximately £35 million is forecast to be spent in 2008-09 on upgrading Service Family Accommodation (SFA) in the United Kingdom to the Department's highest standard for condition. We are also spending £25 million on other improvements which would not constitute an upgrade, but improves the quality of life for Service occupants and their families.

The current plan is for expenditure of approximately £48 million each year over the next five years on upgrading SFA in the United Kingdom.

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what percentage of single family accommodation units were in condition *(a)* 1, *(b)* 2, *(c)* 3 and *(d)* 4 in each of the last five years. [267644]

Mr. Kevan Jones: Of those service family accommodation properties worldwide assessed for their standard for condition (SfC), the following percentage were at each SfC in the last five years:

Percentage

	July 2008	*November 2007*	*April 2006*	*April 2005*	*April 2004*
S1fC	58	55	51	49	42
S2fC	32	34	36	40	46
S3fC	7	7	5	8	8
S4fC	3	4	8	3	4

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many single family accommodation units have dropped one or more condition levels in each of the last five years. [267645]

Mr. Kevan Jones: The information requested is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what his most recent estimate is of the average cost of upgrading a single family accommodation unit. [267646]

Mr. Kevan Jones: It is not possible to provide a meaningful average cost of upgrading service family accommodation (SFA) properties as costs can vary considerably depending on the amount of work required for each property, the number of properties covered by a particular project and other factors such as size of properties and the type of construction.

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) how much has been spent on upgrading service family accommodation in 2008-09; [267647]

(2) what the planned spending on upgrading service family accommodation is in each of the next five years. [267648]

Mr. Kevan Jones: Up to 28 February, 2008-09 expenditure on upgrading service family accommodation (SFA) was some £30 million. The final expenditure for 2008-09 will not be confirmed until a little while after the financial year end.

Upgrade expenditure of some £48 million is planned in each of the next five years.

Armed Forces: Recruitment

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what plans he has for the numbers of people to be recruited into the armed forces over the next three years. [260788]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: Current recruiting targets for the Royal Navy and Army over the next three years are in the following tables. It should be noted that recruitment targets are constantly being monitored and readjusted by the services and therefore these figures are liable to change.

Royal Navy

	Number
2009-10	4,621
2010-11	4,604
2011-12	4,471

Army

	Number
2009-10	14,303
2010-11	14,320
2011-12	14,307

The current downturn in the UK's economy has caused marked changes in the current outflow rate of RAF Servicemen and as a result the forecast outflow rates for the next several financial years (FY) have also had to be reassessed.

This means that the previously derived recruiting targets are currently having to be recalculated.

Bob Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what his policy is on encouraging former members of the armed forces to re-enlist; and if he will make a statement. [265899]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The Royal Navy and the RAF currently have no specific campaigns in place to encourage former member of their Services to rejoin, although the Royal Navy has conducted small-scale targeted letter campaigns in the past.

In the Army, however, ex-soldiers are actively encouraged to rejoin the Army by the use of non-remunerative measures (maintenance of regimental links, public information activities, and press releases etc.) and remunerative measures in the form of the Army rejoin bounty. The bounty was introduced to offer a partial solution, in conjunction with the use of other manning levers, to fill shortfalls and ranges between £2,000 to £12,000 for those personnel already qualified to rejoin specific pinch point trades at specified ranks.

Army: Pay

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the average pay of *(a)* lance corporals and *(b)* privates was at the latest date for which figures are available. [267649]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The average annual basic pay of lance corporals and privates and their equivalents in the RN/RM and RAF is provided in the following table. The averages shown are based on pay rates for 2009-10 as announced by the Government on 31 March 2009 and service numbers as at January 2009.

Rank	*Average annual basic pay (£)*
Lance corporal and equivalent	24,401.97
Private and equivalent	22,357.47

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what percentage of *(a)* lance corporals, *(b)* privates, *(c)* corporals, *(d)* sergeants, *(e)* warrant officer 2s, *(f)* staff sergeants and *(g)* warrant officer 1s are in the (i) higher and (ii) lower pay spine; and what criteria are used to determine an individual's appropriate spine. [267650]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The information requested is provided in the table. The figures represent the ranks specified and their equivalents in RN/RM and the RAF. The percentages shown are based on service numbers as at January 2009.

Rank	*Percentage in higher band*	*Percentage in lower band*
Warrant Officer 1	70.46	29.54
Warrant Officer 2	74.18	25.82
Staff Sergeant	49.47	50.53
Sergeant	74.77	25.23
Corporal	72.37	27.63
Lance Corporal	73.98	26.02
Private	11.37	88.63

Allocation to the higher or lower pay range is on the basis of job evaluation, which is a well-established and objective means of assessing the weight of an individual job by analysing it as a series of elements or factors and giving it a numerical score. The six key factors used to determine job weight are: knowledge, skills and experience; complexity and mental challenge; judgment and decision-making; use of resources; communications; and working conditions. The results of job evaluation for all other rank trades are applied on a whole trade basis against the evaluation of a range of jobs selected as being representative of the main types of employment carried out across a particular trade, but with each rank being judged on its own merits.

Departmental Carbon Emissions

Greg Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether his Department has adopted the Carbon Trust's Carbon Management Programme. [266729]

Mr. Kevan Jones: The Ministry of Defence (MOD) set up a partnership agreement with the Carbon Trust in July 2004, the scope of which goes wider than the Carbon Management Programme. We are currently taking the necessary steps to achieve the Carbon Trust Standard which is a key enabler in achieving the Carbon Reduction Commitment.

The MOD is continuing to work with the Carbon Trust on a number of specific carbon reduction projects. Examples include, the Catterick Garrison Carbon Management Energy Efficiency Project which, once implemented, is expected to result in a reduction of approximately 12,900 tonnes of CO_2.

Departmental Magazine Press

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much has been spent on the production of in-house magazines in the Department in each year since 1997. [265411]

Mr. Kevan Jones: The armed forces and MOD produce a range of in-house publications, aimed at keeping our people informed and maintaining cohesion in our wider organisation. These range from major print journals with large circulations, which offset costs through advertising, to small electronic newsletters produced at little or no cost.

Production costs of all in-house publications produced within the MOD are not available centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost. However, details of production costs (excluding staff costs) of the principal central MOD publication, Defence Focus, for each year since 1998-99 are as follows:

	£000
1998-99	168
1999-2000	174
2000-01	162
2001-02	165
2002-03	205
2003-04	179
2004-05	180
2005-06	203
2006-07	198
2007-08	166
2008-09	187

Departmental Redundancy

Justine Greening: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence with reference to the answer of 26 November 2008, *Official Report*, column 1558W, on redundancy, how many staff left his Department under staff exit schemes with a severance package worth *(a)* between £100,000 and £125,000, *(b)* between £125,001 and £150,000, *(c)* between £150,001 and £200,000, *(d)* between £200,001 and £250,000, *(e)* between £250,001 and £500,000, *(f)* between £500,001 and £1,000,000 and *(g)* over £1,000,000 in each year since 2005-06. [264311]

Mr. Kevan Jones: To provide this specific information would require a departmental-wide trawl to ascertain the number and cost of involuntary and voluntary staff exits in each year since 2005-06. This could be done only at disproportionate cost.

We do hold information centrally on the departmental-wide voluntary early release schemes which were launched in March 2005 and March 2008 (early retirement or early severance). The following table shows the number of staff who voluntarily left the Ministry of Defence in each year between 2005-06 and 2007-08, grouped by the cost of their severance package (over £100,000); and those who are due to leave in years 2008-09 and 2009-10. These early release schemes are expected to reduce the MOD Salary Costs by around £90 million over the period 2005-10. These early release schemes are expected to reduce the MOD salary costs by around £90 million over the period 2005-10.

	£100,000-£125,000	*£125,000-£150,000*	*£150,000-£200,000*	*£200,000-£250,000*	*£250,000-£500,000*	*£500,000-£1 million*	*£1 million plus*	*Total*
2005-06	62	47	43	10	5	0	0	167
2006-07	37	43	60	16	8	0	0	164
2007-08	103	70	107	16	8	0	0	304
2008-09	35	19	31	21	10	0	0	116
2009-10	32.	21	35	17	7	0	0	112
Total	269	200	276	80	38	0	0	863

These figures include all those early departure costs met by the Ministry of Defence, including the cost of lump sum severance payments and the additional costs of benefits beyond the normal Principal Civil Service Pension scheme (PCSPS) benefits in respect of employees who retire early, and the capitalised costs of early payment of pension benefits.

Departmental Research

Mrs. Curtis-Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much funding for research and development his Department has provided to defence companies in each year since 2000; and which 10 companies received the most funding. [267394]

Mr. Quentin Davies: Table 1.8 of UK Defence Statistics (UKDS) provides statistics on the Departments annual expenditure on Research and Development (R and D) activities. These are compiled in accordance with internationally agreed definitions. Expenditure is broken down into intramural (i.e. (R and D) activity undertaken within the Department) and extramural (i.e. that R and D activity undertaken outside the Department).

The extramural figures cover the Department's expenditure on tasks undertaken by UK and overseas industry as well as small amounts tasked to Universities and Research Councils. Copies of the latest and previous editions of UKDS are held by the Library of the House and are available online at:

http://www.dasa.mod.uk/applications/newWeb/www/index.php?page=67&pubType=l&thiscontent=10&date=2008-09-24

Gross extramural expenditure on R and D as published in the latest UKDS (2008) is provided in the following table. These figures are currently subject to a data quality review and will be published once approval has been received from the UK Statistics Authority. Figures before 2001-02 are not directly comparable because from 2001-02 Government expenditure has been formally accounted for on a resource basis only.

£ million (inclusive of non-recoverable VAT at current prices)

	2001-02	*2002-03*	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*
Research and Development (R and D)					
Total Gross Extramural Expenditure on R and D	1,698	2,502	2,364	2,288	2,229
Research					
Total Gross Extramural Expenditure on Research	388	379	384	474	455
Development					
Total Gross Extramural Expenditure on Development	1,311	2,123	1,980	1,814	1,775

The following lists provide the top 10 defence companies (in alphabetical order) which have received most of the annual expenditure on R and D tasks in each of the years from 2000-01 to 2007-08, the latest year where complete data are available.

2007-08

BAE Systems (Operations) Ltd.
BAE Systems Integrated System Technologies Ltd.
BAE Systems Marine Ltd.
Lockheed Martin Aerospace Systems Integration Corporation
MBDA UK Ltd.
QinetiQ Ltd.
Rolls-Royce Power Engineering plc
Thales Naval Ltd.
Thales UK Ltd.
Westland Helicopters Ltd.

2006-07

BAE Systems (Operations) Ltd.
BAE Systems Electronics Ltd.
BAE Systems Integrated System Technologies Ltd.
Lockheed Martin Aerospace Systems Integration Corporation
MBDA UK Ltd.
QinetiQ Ltd.
Raytheon Systems Ltd.
Thales Naval Ltd.
Thales UK Ltd.
Westland Helicopters Ltd.

2005-06

Atkins Consultants Ltd.
BAE Systems (Operations) Ltd.
BAE Systems Electronics Ltd.
BAE Systems Integrated System Technologies Ltd.
BAE Systems Land Systems (Munitions and Ordnance) Ltd.
Lockheed Martin Aerospace Systems Integration Corporation
MBDA UK Ltd.
QinetiQ Ltd.
Raytheon Systems Ltd.
Thales UK Ltd.

2004-05

AMS Ltd.
BAE Systems (Operations) Ltd.
BAE Systems Avionics Ltd.
BAE Systems Electronics Ltd.
General Dynamics United Kingdom Ltd,.
Lockheed Martin Aerospace Systems Integration Corporation
MBDA UK Ltd.
QinetiQ Ltd.
Raytheon Systems Ltd.
Thales Naval Ltd.

2003-04

Alvis Vickers Ltd.
AMS Ltd.
BAE Systems (Operations) Ltd.
BAE Systems Avionics Ltd.
BAE Systems Electronics Ltd.
General Dynamics United Kingdom Ltd.
MBDA UK Ltd.
QinetiQ Ltd.
Saab Bofors Dynamics AB
Westland Helicopters Ltd.

2002-03

A.W.S.R. Shipping Ltd.
Alenia Marconi Systems Ltd.
Alvis Vickers Ltd.
BAE Systems (Operations) Ltd.
BAE Systems Electronics Ltd.
MBDA UK Ltd.
QinetiQ Ltd.
Rolls Royce Power Engineering
Royal Ordnance plc
Thales Underwater Systems

2001-02

Alenia Marconi Systems Ltd.
BAE Systems (Operations) Ltd.
BAE Systems Defence Ltd.
BAE Systems Electronics Ltd.
MBDA UK Ltd.
QinetiQ Ltd.
Raytheon Company
Rolls Royce Power Engineering
Thales Underwater Systems
Vickers Engineering plc

2000-01

Alenia Marconi Systems Ltd.
BAE Systems (Operations) Ltd.

BAE Systems Avionics Ltd.
BAE Systems Defence Ltd.
BAE Systems Electronics Ltd.
EDS Defence Ltd.
Lockheed Martin Corporation
Matra BAE Dynamics (UK) Ltd.
Rolls Royce Power Engineering
Royal Ordnance plc

Directorate of Management and Consultancy Services

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) what Directorate of Management and Consultancy Services studies have been issued since 1997-98: [249709]

(2) if he will place in the Library a copy of each Directorate of Management and Consultancy Services study produced in 2008. [249723]

Mr. Kevan Jones: I will place a copy of the list of substantive studies completed by the Ministry of Defence's Directorate of Management Consultancy Services between January 2000 and December 2008 in the Library of the House. While every effort has been made to ensure the completeness of the list over that period, it has not been possible to confirm absolutely that all substantive studies have been included due to a lack of consistency in recording information during a period of restructuring and change. Records prior to 2000 are not held on a central database and could be accessed and verified only at disproportionate cost.

I will place copies of the reports produced in 2008 in the Library of the House, subject to a check to ensure they do not contain information that should be withheld. I will write to the hon. Member when this has been done.

Substantive answer from Kevan Jones to Liam Fox:

I undertook to write to you on 28 January, (Official Report, column 509W) about the Directorate of Management and Consultancy Services.

Officials have now completed the reports and I have placed copies in the Library of the House. I attach a copy for ease of reference.

Ex-servicemen: Mental Health

Mr. Meale: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what estimate he has made of the average cost to his Department of commissioning psychological reports in connection with cases raised by veterans in the last 12 months, broken down by category of expenditure. [267836]

Mr. Kevan Jones: This information is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost. Responsibility for veterans' health care delivery lies with the NHS. The Department of Health and Devolved Administrations, with support from the Ministry of Defence have launched a number of community mental health pilots for veterans at six NHS Trusts across the UK. Centred on the patient and GP, these arrangements should make it easier for veterans with concerns about their mental health to seek and access help. For those veterans not in the catchment area of one of the pilot sites and who are not satisfied with the support provided to them through the NHS, MOD's Medical Assessment Programme, based at St. Thomas's hospital London, provides expert mental health assessments.

Ex-servicemen: Tribunals

Mr. Meale: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many *(a)* veterans' tribunals and *(b)* reviews of cases before veterans' tribunals there have been in each year since 2000. [267837]

Mr. Kevan Jones: Appeals from former service personnel under the War Pensions Scheme and from both service and former service personnel under the Armed Forces Compensation Scheme, are heard by the First-tier Tribunal, War Pensions and Armed Forces Compensation, which is administered by the Tribunals Service, an Executive Agency of the Ministry of Justice. It was formerly known as the Pensions Appeals Tribunal.

The records for the number of appeals in respect of War Pensions Scheme (WPS) start in 2001 and relate only to veterans. The Armed Forces Compensation Scheme (AFCS) came into existence in April 2005 and the cases provided in the following table relate to both the serving and veterans communities.

	WPS number	*AFCS number*
2001	5,402	n/a
2002	4,785	n/a
2003	5,365	n/a
2004	3,708	n/a
2005	3,911	n/a
2006	3,642	6
2007	3,821	25
2008	3,410	94
2009	1,026	60
Total	35,070	185

Data are not kept in a format that can identify reviews of cases before veterans' tribunals, therefore, this information could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Falkland Islands: Aviation

Bob Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many civilian places are available each week on the RAF aircraft services between the UK and the Falklands Islands. [267937]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: There are currently two return South Atlantic Airbridge flights each week operating between RAF Brize Norton and the Falkland Islands via Ascension Island. On each flight there are 26 seats available to fare paying passengers between the UK and Ascension Island and a further 29 seats available to fare paying passengers between the UK and the Falkland Islands. This reflects the requirements requested by the Governments of the Falkland Islands, Ascension and St. Helena.

Bob Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) on how many occasions in each of the last three years flights between the UK and the Falklands Islands were cancelled because weather conditions prevented aircraft from landing on Ascension Island; [267938]

(2) what alternative routes between the UK and the Falkland Islands are available in the event of a closure to aircraft of Ascension Island. [267939]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: Since September 2006 no flights between the UK and the Falklands Islands have been cancelled owing to weather conditions preventing aircraft from landing on Ascension Island. Records prior to this are not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost. In the event of Ascension Island being closed to aircraft, alternative routes between the UK and the Falkland Islands would be managed on a case by case basis.

Iraq: Security

John Battle: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many private military and security companies are operating in Iraq; and if he will make a statement. [245285]

Bill Rammell: I have been asked to reply.

The Foreign and Commonwealth Office currently contracts four private military and security companies to protect its property and staff in Iraq. Those companies are Control Risks Group, GardaWorld, Minimal Risks and ArmorGroup. There is no information available to ascertain how many other companies are also operating in Iraq.

Iraq-Kuwait Conflict

Mr. Meale: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much his Department spent on examining matters raised by Gulf War veterans in each of the last five years. [267834]

Mr. Kevan Jones: The information requested is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost. However, the needs of Gulf veterans and their dependants remain a priority for the Government. Appropriate medical treatment is provided by the NHS. Financial support is available to eligible Gulf veterans and dependants through MOD war pensions and armed forces occupational pension schemes. The UK has undertaken a substantial amount of research into the possible causes of Gulf veterans' illnesses costing some £9 million from 1997 onwards. The focus of our research effort is now on rehabilitative therapies for those veterans with persistent symptoms as recommended by the Medical Research Council. A contract has been awarded to Cardiff university, acknowledged experts in this field, and work has begun on a rehabilitation research programme.

Navy: Manpower

Angus Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the *(a)* trained, *(b)* actual strength and *(c)* numbers fit for duty requirement is for the Royal Navy's Submarine Service. [267070]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The submariner liability at 1 February 2009 is provided in the following table:

	Submariner liability
Officers	860
Ranks	3,430
Grand total	4,290

The submariner trained regular strength at 1 February 2009 is provided in the following table:

	Submariner trained regular strength
Officers	940
Ranks	3,370
Grand total	4,310

The apparent surplus of submariner officers and the near balance of submariner ratings masks significant shortfalls in the sea-going population where some ranks/specialisations have insufficient numbers of suitably qualified and experienced personnel.

Information regarding fit for duty requirement is not currently available. I refer the hon. Member to the answer the Under-Secretary of State my hon. Friend the Member for North Durham (Mr. Jones) gave on 20 January 2009, *Official Report*, columns 1262-64W, to the hon. Member for Woodspring (Dr. Fox). Further information should be available by summer 2009 (subject to validation exercises) using data from the Defence Medical Information Capability programme as identified in the House of Commons Defence Committee Readiness Inquiry.

Peacekeeping Operations

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what main injuries were sustained by each *(a)* very seriously injured or wounded and *(b)* seriously injured or wounded member of the armed forces personnel in (i) Iraq in each year since 2003 and (ii) Afghanistan in each year since 2002. [258864]

Mr. Kevan Jones: The Ministry of Defence publishes the numbers of personnel categorised as very seriously injured and seriously injured as a result of Operations TELIC and HERRICK on its website

www.mod.uk

The figures are updated fortnightly.

We do not routinely sub-classify VSI and SI by the type of injury sustained, although academic work is in hand examining the nature of injuries sustained, which subject to security applications will be considered for publication.

Some figures have previously been collated on amputee numbers. As my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Defence informed the House in a written answer on 16 December 2008, *Official Report*, column 554W, between 1 December 2007 and 30 November 2008 a total of 24 service personnel have suffered amputations due to injuries sustained while on operational deployment; one in Iraq and 23 in Afghanistan. These amputations can range from the loss of part of a finger or toe up to the loss of entire limb(s).

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the average pay was for *(a)* lance corporals and *(b)* privates serving in Iraq and Afghanistan at the latest date for which information is available. [267651]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: Service personnel receive the same basic pay regardless of where in the world they are serving. The average annual basic pay of lance corporals and privates and their equivalents in the RN/RM and RAF is provided in the table. The averages shown are based on pay rates for 2009-10 as announced by the Government on 31 March 2009 and service numbers as at January 2009.

Rank	*Average annual basic pay*
Lance Corporal and Equivalent	24,401.97
Private and Equivalent	22,357.47

Service personnel serving a six month tour in Iraq and Afghanistan will also be eligible for the following: tax free operational allowance currently £2,380; tax free council tax relief currently £145; and longer separation allowance, of which the minimum level currently payable is £1,194.

Somalia: Piracy

Mrs. Curtis-Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what assessment he has made of the effectiveness of the EU/Kenya agreement with respect to the prosecution of pirates; and what support the EU has provided to the Kenyan authorities for their activities in relation to the prosecution of pirates. [267393]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: Appropriate arrangements for the prosecution of suspected pirates are important to ensuring the maximum effectiveness of the EU counter-piracy operation Atalanta. We welcome the signature of the EU/Kenya exchange of letters on 6 March 2009 for the transfer of persons suspected of committing acts of piracy.

Nine suspected pirates were transferred to Kenya by the EU operation Atalanta on 10 March but it is too early to assess the effectiveness of the agreement.

The EU will be sending a delegation to Kenya next week to assess the level of support that the Kenyan authorities require in the prosecution of pirates. The EU continues to seek appropriate arrangements with other regional states to ensure that the burden of potential prosecution is shared. The International Contact Group on piracy off the coast of Somalia is also working on building capacity and capability in the region to prosecute pirates.

Veterans Agency

Mr. Meale: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) what the budget of the Veterans Agency was in each of the last five years; and how many people it employed in each such year; [267832]

(2) how much the Veterans Agency spent in each of the last five years. [267734]

Mr. Kevan Jones: The Veterans Agency (VA) merged with the Armed Forces Personnel Administration Agency in April 2007 to become the Service Personnel and Veterans Agency (SPVA).

The VA and SPVA's allocated budgets, operational costs, and staff numbers in the last five years is provided in the tables. Details of the agencies' operational costs and staff numbers can also be found in the VA annual report and accounts for financial years 2003-04 to 2006-07, and the SPVA annual report and accounts for financial year 2007-08. Copies of these are held in the Library of the House.

VA

FY	*Budget (£000)*	*Amount spent (£000)*	*Staff number*
2003-04	33,515	29,947	844
2004-05	31,067	29,409	844
2005-06	34,663	32,420	836
2006-07	34,883	33,277	817

SPVA

FY	*Budget (£000)*	*Amount spent (£000)*	*Staff number*
2007-08	130,870	134,650	1,111

Note:
The Amount Spent figures represent the Net Operating Costs excluding notional and non-cash costs.

Mr. Meale: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much the Veterans Agency spent on legal representation in each of the last five years. [267833]

Mr. Kevan Jones: The Veterans Agency (VA) merged with the Armed Forces Personnel Administration Agency in April 2007 to become the Service Personnel and Veterans Agency (SPVA).

The amount spent on VA and SPVA legal costs is provided in the tables.

VA

FY	*£*
2003-04	6,031
2004-05	23,657
2005-06	60,245
2006-07	208,155

SPVA

FY	*£*
2007-08	128,000

DUCHY OF LANCASTER

Charities

7. **Angela Watkinson** To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what recent assessment the Charity Commission has made of the effect of the recession on charities. [267964]

9. **Mr. Evennett** To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what assessment the Charity Commission has made of the effect of the recession on charities. [267966]

14. **John Howell** To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what assessment the Charity Commission has made of the effects of the recession on charities. [267972]

Kevin Brennan: I refer the hon. Members to the answer I gave earlier today.

Civil Service

8. **Andrew Rosindell** To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what plans the Government have to create additional jobs in the civil service during the recession. [267965]

10. **Mr. Andrew Turner** To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what plans the Government have to create additional jobs in the civil service during the recession. [267968]

Mr. Watson: I refer the hon. Members to the answer I gave earlier today.

Grassroots Organisations

11. **Kerry McCarthy:** To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what steps he is taking to increase the availability of funding for grassroots organisations. [267969]

Mr. Byrne: The Government are committed to delivering real help to communities, right where it is needed. The £130 million grassroots grants scheme, as well as the £15.5 million targeted support fund, target deprivation so those areas in most need get the most help.

In Bristol alone we are investing nearly £1.1 million through grassroots grants, including more than £400,000 through the endowment match challenge.

Voluntary Groups

12. **Phil Wilson:** To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what assistance he is providing to volunteering organisations that work with unemployed people. [267970]

Mr. Byrne: In January 2008 the Government announced that it will provide up to £10 million to volunteering organisations to create access-to-work-focused volunteering opportunities for people who have been claiming Jobseeker's Allowance for six months.

In addition, in February 2008 we announced a new £15.5 million targeted support fund, which will provide support to third sector organisations providing essential services in the recession. This will include helping people develop skills and access jobs.

Civil Servants: Hospitality

13. **David Taylor:** To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what arrangements his Department has established for the annual publication of details of hospitality and entertainment received by senior civil servants; and if he will make a statement. [267971]

Mr. Watson: The first ever list of hospitality received by board members of Government Departments was published in February.

Balance of Trade

Mr. Newmark: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what the UK's trade balance in *(a)* goods, *(b)* services, *(c)* total excluding oil and *(d)* total was with (i) other EU member states, (ii) Germany, (iii) USA and (iv) Japan in each year since 1997. [268049]

Kevin Brennan: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated April 2009:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your question asking for the UK trade balance in (a) goods, (b) services, (c) total excluding oil and (d) total with (i) other EU member states, (ii) Germany, (iii) USA and (iv) Japan in each year since 1997 (268049).

The available figures are given in the table. The figures are consistent with those published in the Balance of Payments 4th Quarter and annual 2008 First Release published on 27 March 2008. Some detailed breakdowns are not available. Totals excluding oil can only be shown for trade with EU. EU data for the 27 Member States are available from 1998 for Goods and from 1999 for Services.

Separate estimates for Services for Germany are made during the annual Pink Book production, although the figure for 2007 published in Pink Book 2008 has been updated in the table. The 2008 figure will be published later in 2009.

Table: UK balances of (a) Goods, (b) Services, (c) Total excluding Oil, (d) Total with (i) EU 27, (ii) Germany, (iii) USA, (iv) Japan

£ million

	EU 27				Germany		
	Goods	Services	Total excl. oil	Total trade	Goods	Services	Total trade
1997	—	—	—	—	-4,947	1,483	-3,464
1998	-5,712	—	—	—	-4,496	1,512	-2,984
1999	-8,085	-1,727	-14,405	-9,812	-6,348	1,001	-5,347
2000	-5,185	-1,638	-14,546	-6,823	-5,673	1,977	-3,696
2001	-12,567	-836	-21,090	-13,403	-6,537	1,954	-4,583
2002	-22,194	-1,409	-30,722	-23,603	-10,378	2,097	-8,281
2003	-26,118	-1,143	-34,259	-27,261	-12,862	2,280	-10,582
2004	-30,873	520	-37,340	-30,353	-13,713	1,753	-11,960
2005	-36,577	-682	-46,163	-37,259	-16,144	1,388	-14,756
2006	-31,391	1,249	-41,119	-30,142	-15,058	1,798	-13,260
2007	-41,986	4,885	-46,307	-37,101	-19,866	2,153	-17,909
2008	-39,186	8,786	-43,117	-30,400	-16,574	—	—

£ million

	USA			Japan		
	Goods	Services	Total trade	Goods	Services	Total trade
1997	-3,476	4,973	1,497	-4,851	1,555	-3,296
1998	-3,703	4,120	417	-5,997	1,505	-4,492
1999	-320	5,136	4,816	-5,818	1,924	-3,894
2000	860	6,069	6,929	-6,542	1,805	-4,737
2001	-101	5,708	5,607	-5,407	1,742	-3,665
2002	3,048	9,287	12,335	-4,496	2,395	-2,101
2003	5,815	9,115	14,930	-4,375	2,166	-2,209
2004	6,486	10,463	16,949	-4,246	2,517	-1,729
2005	8,729	8,201	16,930	-4,769	2,042	-2,727
2006	6,547	12,039	18,586	-3,748	1,526	-2,222
2007	6,310	14,198	20,508	-4,019	1,603	-2,416
2008	9,284	16,322	25,606	-4,598	1,491	-3,107

Departmental Public Expenditure

Grant Shapps: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what *(a)* capital and *(b)* resource funds the Cabinet Office has brought forward from its (i) 2009-10 and (ii) 2010-11 budgets for use in (A) 2008-09 and (B) 2009-10; and what schemes this funding is being used to support. [267400]

Kevin Brennan: The Cabinet Office has no present plans to change any existing capital or resource expenditure plans for 2008-09, 2009-10 or 2010-11.

Employment: Lone Parents

Mr. Evans: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how many single parents were in full-time employment in *(a)* Ribble Valley constituency and *(b)* the UK in each of the last five years for which figures are available. [267794]

Kevin Brennan: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the Authority to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated March 2009:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question asking how many single parents were in full-time employment in (a) Ribble Valley constituency and (b) the UK in each of the last five years for which figures are available. (267794)

Table 1 attached shows the number of lone parents below state pension age with dependent children for the United Kingdom for the calendar years 2004 to 2007, who were in full time employment. Estimates are not available for the Ribble Valley due to insufficient sample sizes in each year.

Estimates are derived from the Annual Population Survey (APS) household datasets and are only available for January to December for the years 2004 to 2007. Estimates for 2008 will be available from summer 2009.

As with any sample survey, estimates from the APS are subject to a margin of uncertainty.

Table 1: Number of lone parents[1] with dependent children[2] in full-time employment in the UK, 2004 to 2007, January to December of each year

	Level (thousand)
2004	483
2005	530
2006	534
2007	532

[1] Men aged 16 to 64 and women aged 16 to 59.

[2] Dependent children are children aged under 16 and those 16 to 18 who are never-married and in full-time education.

Source:

Annual Population Survey household data sets

Unemployment

Mr. Roger Williams: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what the average rate of unemployment in *(a)* urban and *(b)* rural areas was in each region in each of the last three years; and if he will make a statement. [266450]

Kevin Brennan: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the Authority to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question, asking what the average rate of unemployment in (a) urban and (b) rural areas was in each region in each of the last three years. (266450)

The Office for National Statistics (ONS) compiles unemployment statistics for areas of Great Britain smaller than countries or English regions from the Annual Population Survey (APS) following International Labour Organisation (ILO) definitions.

Table 1, attached, shows the estimates of people unemployed as a percentage of all economically active persons aged 16 and over resident in urban and rural areas in each region. Figures for 2006 to 2008 are for the 12 month period ending March that year and taken from the APS. Estimates for July 2007 to June 2008 have also been provided, the most recent period for which figures are available.

These estimates, as with any from sample surveys, are subject to a margin of uncertainty.

Table 1: Unemployment rates[1] for people aged 16 and over in (a) Urban and (b) Rural areas in each region in each of the last three years

Percentage

	March 2006	*March 2007*	*March 2008*	*June 2008*
North East				
Urban	6.5	7.0	6.9	7.1
Rural	4.8	5.1	4.5	4.6
North West				
Urban	5.4	6.0	6.1	6.2
Rural	2.7	2.2	2.9	3.0
Yorkshire and the Humber				
Urban	5.7	6.1	5.6	6.1
Rural	3.1	3.7	3.6	3.5
East Midlands				
Urban	5.4	5.9	6.1	6.3
Rural	3.0	3.4	3.1	3.2
West Midlands				
Urban	5.9	6.1	6.8	6.8
Rural	2.4	2.6	3.6	3.3
East				
Urban	4.5	5.0	4.6	4.7
Rural	3.0	3.4	3.4	3.2
London				
Urban	7.7	7.3	6.7	6.4
Rural	[2]—	[2]—	[2]—	[2]—
South East				
Urban	4.2	4.6	4.3	4.5
Rural	3.2	3.8	3.2	3.1
South West				
Urban	3.7	4.3	4.1	4.3
Rural	2.7	3.1	3.2	2.9
Wales				
Urban	6.0	6.0	6.4	6.3
Rural	3.7	4.3	4.3	4.3
Scotland				
Urban	6.1	6.1	5.0	4.9
Rural	4.1	3.6	3.7	3.6

[1] Unemployed as a percentage of the economically active population

[2] Data not available or disclosive

Source:

Annual Population Survey

Written Answers to Questions

Thursday 2 April 2009

SOLICITOR-GENERAL

Rape: Victim Support

8. **Ms Katy Clark:** To ask the Solicitor-General what further steps she plans to take to provide support for women's victims and rape support groups. [268322]

The Solicitor-General: The steps we are taking include: a £1.6 million cross-Government fund for the sexual violence voluntary sector to provide grants to individual support groups; and a cross-Government consultation on ending violence against women and girls, which is informed by the Crown Prosecution Service's ground-breaking Violence against Women Strategy.

John Robertson: To ask the Solicitor-General what steps she plans to take to provide support during rape cases brought by the Crown Prosecution Service for those who have been raped. [268315]

The Solicitor-General: The CPS is committed to helping rape victims and is contributing to the cross-Government initiative to increase the number of Sexual Assault Referral Centres providing vital support to victims. An updated edition of the CPS Policy for Prosecuting Rape, designed to inform those who support victims, was published last week.

Shoplifting

9. **Miss McIntosh:** To ask the Solicitor-General how many *(a)* successful and *(b)* unsuccessful prosecutions for shoplifting have been brought in the last 12 months. [268323]

The Solicitor-General: The records maintained by the Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) do not separately identify cases of theft or burglary from shops. The information could only be retrieved by locating and examining individual case records and the costs of such an exercise would be prohibitive. Information is, however, available on the performance of the CPS in prosecuting all cases of theft and handling in the magistrates court. In 2008, the CPS prosecuted 141,159 cases of which 131,927 (93.5 per cent.) resulted in a conviction.

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Biodiversity

6. **Simon Hughes:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent steps his Department has taken towards meeting its 2010 biodiversity target; and if he will make a statement. [268330]

Huw Irranca-Davies: We have taken steps on all our six priorities, but let me highlight also 88 per cent. of sites of special scientific interest which are in favourable or recovering condition, the agri-environment schemes which are making good progress, we have introduced the Marine Bill and Coastal Access Bill and have funded new international work under the Darwin initiative.

Sheep

7. **Mr. Moore:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what progress has been made in discussions at EU level on the European Commission's proposals for the electronic identification of sheep. [268331]

Hilary Benn: We have postponed the introduction of EID to 31 December 2009, delayed the introduction of individual movement reporting, and reached an agreement that sheep born before 31 December 2009 and sheep under 12 months both moving to slaughter will not have to be reported individually at all. EID was discussed again at the Agriculture Council on 23 March and the Commission agreed to examine additional measures that we have proposed that would reduce further the burden on implementation.

Common Agricultural Policy

9. **Mr. Bone:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what discussions he had on simplification of the Common Agricultural Policy at the last Agriculture and Fisheries Council; and if he will make a statement. [268333]

Hilary Benn: My right hon. Friend the Minister for Farming and the Environment attended the last Agriculture Council at which the Commission presented its progress report on "A simplified CAP". It will be discussed at the April meeting and the UK strongly supports reducing administrative burdens on farmers.

Mr. Paice: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what items his Department has requested to be added to the agenda of EU Agriculture and Fisheries Council meetings in each of the last five years. [268143]

Huw Irranca-Davies: Since 2005, the United Kingdom has requested the following items to be added to the EU Agriculture and Fisheries Council agenda: the market situation in the olive oil sector; thematic strategy for soil protection; illegal use of drift nets; illegal logging and related trade in timber and timber products; foot and mouth disease; sheep electronic identification. The UK regularly intervenes on both substantive and AOB items during Agriculture and Fisheries Council meetings.

Animal Welfare

10. **Mr. Laurence Robertson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent discussions he has had with his EU counterparts on steps to ensure that food imported from outside the EU meets animal welfare standards; and if he will make a statement. [268334]

Hilary Benn: The UK supports high welfare standards and works to raise them elsewhere in the world. We encourage producers to see higher standards as a marketing opportunity, and we look forward to the EU Commissions report on animal welfare labelling in the EU.

Bovine Tuberculosis

11. **Mr. Drew:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what criteria he plans to apply in selecting the trial areas for the bovine tuberculosis vaccination pilot project. [268335]

Hilary Benn: We are currently working with the Bovine TB Eradication Group for England, epidemiologists and other industry and stakeholder groups to identify criteria for selecting the areas where the bovine TB injectable badger vaccine deployment project will take place.

Water Charges

12. **Mr. Davey:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what progress he has made in his consideration of options for mitigating the effects on water customers of increases in surface water charges. [268336]

Huw Irranca-Davies: I am pleased to report that United Utilities—where most complaints have arisen—has in light of representations received taken steps to resolve the problem of disproportionate increases in bills for faith buildings, community amateur sports clubs and properties owned by scouts and guides for 2009-10 by reverting to charges based on 2007-08 for these customers—i.e. based on rateable waste.

Tony Lloyd: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what the real terms change in water rates has been since privatisation of the water industry. [266157]

Huw Irranca-Davies *[holding answer 24 March 2009]*: I have arranged for the information requested to be placed in the Libraries of the House.

Anaerobic Digestion

13. **Kerry McCarthy:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what progress is being made on encouraging the use of anaerobic digestion of waste. [268337]

Huw Irranca-Davies: Government encourage greater uptake of anaerobic digestion by both local authorities and businesses through the renewable obligation certificates, the anaerobic digestion programme, publications and working groups.

Progress is being made. I believe we can create a prosperous anaerobic digestion market that benefits society, the environment and businesses.

Air Quality

15. **Ms Buck:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what discussions he has had with the Mayor of London on the effects of the London low emissions zone on air quality in London boroughs. [268340]

Huw Irranca-Davies: The Mayor of London is responsible for working towards DEFRA's national air quality objectives in London. My noble Friend, Lord Hunt of King's Heath, met with the Mayor on 22 January to discuss progress, and my officials have had regular meetings with counterparts in the Greater London Authority to discuss measures including the low emissions zone. The Government are committed to working with the Mayor and London boroughs to improve air quality in London.

Bees

16. **Ben Chapman:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent estimate he has made of the size of the bee population. [268341]

Huw Irranca-Davies: There are no estimates for how the number of honey bees has changed over the years, but there is a wide consensus that numbers have declined since the arrival of Varroa in the early nineties.

The Secretary of State recently announced additional funding of £4.3 million for bee health which includes a contribution to a wider research programme on pollinator decline.

School Fruit Scheme

17. **Mr. Todd:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what discussions he has had with fruit growers on the proposal to extend the school fruit scheme; and if he will make a statement. [268342]

Huw Irranca-Davies: The idea for an EU School Fruit Scheme was first raised as part of the 2007 reform of the EU Fruit and Vegetables Regime. We have kept the National Farmers Union involved with the progress of proposals and will continue to do so. We are also in touch with other parts of the industry, for example via the Horticultural Development Company.

Common Fisheries Policy

18. **Mr. Carswell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent discussions he has had with his EU counterparts on the recreational fisheries proposals in Article 47 of the proposed Council Regulation on compliance with the Common Fisheries Policy. [268343]

Huw Irranca-Davies: Discussion of the proposal has now begun at official level at a Council Working Group. I am expecting an initial discussion at ministerial level at the June Fisheries Council.

Flood Defences: East Anglia

Mr. Bellingham: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs when he next expects to meet representatives of local authorities in East Anglia to discuss flood defences. [268332]

Huw Irranca-Davies: I have no current engagements planned with representatives of local authorities in East Anglia to discuss flood defences, but have agreed to meet representatives of North Norfolk district council in the summer to discuss coastal adaptation issues.

Agriculture: Subsidies

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what proportion of farmers in *(a)* North Devon constituency, *(b)* the South West and *(c)* nationally whose countryside stewardships have been completed have entered Natural England's Higher Level Stewardship Scheme. [267940]

Huw Irranca-Davies: Separate information on the uptake of Higher Level Stewardship (HLS) agreements on former Countryside Stewardship Scheme (CSS) agreement land is not currently available in the form requested, nor is information available for individual constituencies.

Natural England has a target to get 80 per cent. of the land formerly in either CSS or Environmentally Sensitive Area (ESA) agreements into Environmental Stewardship (ES) agreements (Entry Level Stewardship (ELS) or HLS). Nationally, about 79 per cent. of that land has already been entered into ES agreements. In the South West region the figure is about 75 per cent.

Bovine Tuberculosis: Disease Control

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how the six areas for the vaccination trial to reduce the transmission of bovine tuberculosis from wildlife will be chosen. [267481]

Jane Kennedy: We are working in liaison with the Bovine TB Eradication Group for England, epidemiologists and other key industry and stakeholder groups to identify criteria for selecting the areas where the project will take place.

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs whether he plans to maximise the catch rate for badgers prior to vaccination to reduce levels of bovine tuberculosis in the proposed trials. [267483]

Jane Kennedy: The methodologies have not yet been finalised. However, we are working with experts from the Food and Environment Research Agency, formerly the Central Science Laboratory, to optimise our approach to trapping for vaccination.

Bovine Tuberculosis: Vaccination

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what estimate he has made of his Department's expenditure on the vaccination of badgers against bovine tuberculosis in the next 12 months. [267808]

Jane Kennedy: Vaccination of badgers as part of the injectable badger vaccine deployment project is expected to begin in summer 2010. Costs for the project have not yet been finalised and will vary depending on the areas vaccination will take place, as well as other factors.

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how long he expects his Department's scheme for the vaccinations of badgers against bovine tuberculosis to operate for. [267809]

Jane Kennedy: We intend for vaccination of badgers to commence in summer 2010 and to take place for at least five years in each area.

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what estimate he has made of the number of badgers which will be vaccinated against bovine tuberculosis under his Department's vaccination scheme. [267811]

Jane Kennedy: We are aiming to vaccinate as many badgers as possible in the areas the project will take place.

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs in which areas of the country he expects his Department's scheme to vaccinate badgers against bovine tuberculosis to operate. [267812]

Jane Kennedy: The project will see vaccination of badgers in six areas with high incidence of cattle disease in England. Each area will be up to 100km². The exact locations are yet to be decided and decisions will be made based on specific criteria and in liaison with the Bovine TB Eradication Group for England and other key industry and stakeholder groups.

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) what recent discussions he has had with farmers on his Department's scheme to vaccinate badgers against bovine tuberculosis; [267813]

(2) what representations he has received from the Countryside Alliance on his Department's scheme to vaccinate badgers against bovine tuberculosis. [267814]

Jane Kennedy: We have had discussions with a variety of stakeholder groups about the injectable badger vaccine deployment project, including with the farming industry. We will be holding further discussions to develop criteria for selecting the areas where the project will take place.

We have not received any representations from the Countryside Alliance.

Christmas

Mr. Rob Wilson: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs whether it is his Department's policy to offer staff *(a)* additional leave entitlement for Christmas shopping and *(b)* Christmas bonus payments. [262810]

Huw Irranca-Davies: It is not departmental policy, nor that of DEFRA's executive agencies, to offer staff either *(a)* additional leave entitlement for Christmas shopping or *(b)* Christmas bonus payments.

Coastal Areas: Climate Change

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent research his Department has *(a)* commissioned and *(b)* evaluated on the risk posed to seaside communities by rising sea levels; and if he will make a statement. [265498]

Huw Irranca-Davies: DEFRA has a crucial role in understanding the impacts of future climate change on sea level rise in England; the National Assembly for Wales has a similar role in Wales. Much work is under way to understand fully the latest evidence on climate change. The UK climate projections 2009 will, in the coming months, offer a Marine Report providing an update on possible future sea level rise and surge.

The Environment Agency, in its coastal strategic overview role, is developing a better understanding of what coastal risk to people and properties means at a national level. Its National Flood Risk Assessment is currently being refined to report on the latest risks, and the rolling programme of shoreline management plans will also offer policies for tackling sections of shoreline in England, covering the next 100 years. DEFRA's coastal change project is developing approaches to help communities adapt to coastal risk.

In terms of past reporting on the impacts from sea level rise, the Government commissioned Foresight Future Flooding (2004) which highlighted the following impacts:

> There might be a rise in the expected average annual damages due to flooding from about £1.4 billion to as much as £27 billion by 2080 if action is not taken now.
>
> Coastal erosion could increase substantially. The annual average damage might increase by a multiple of three to nine by the 2080s, although the worst case (£126 million per year) is still much less than current annual average damages for flooding.

Dairy Farming

Tim Farron: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what estimate he has made of the number of dairy farmers in England in 2008. [267851]

Jane Kennedy *[holding answer 30 March 2009]*: The following figures show the number of full and part-time farmers, partners, directors and spouses (if working on the holding) in England at June 2008 on holdings where dairy is the predominant activity.

	Number
Total farmers, partners, directors and spouses on dairy holdings	20,122
Total holdings where dairy is the predominant activity	10,112

Source:
June Agricultural Survey.

Departmental Absenteeism

Mr. Scott: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many staff of his Department were recorded absent for non-medical reasons on *(a)* 2 February 2009 and *(b)* 3 February 2009; what estimate he has made of the (i) cost to his Department and (ii) number of working hours lost as a result of such absence; and what guidance his Department issued to staff in respect of absence on those days. [260579]

Huw Irranca-Davies: Central records of non-medical absences are held for staff who are on special leave, maternity leave, paternity leave or career breaks. 270 staff in DEFRA, Animal Health, the Government Decontamination Service, the Marine and Fisheries Agency, the Veterinary Laboratories Agency and the Veterinary Medicines Directorate were recorded as being absent for these reasons on 2 or 3 February or both. Information for the other agencies could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Staff who were unable to travel to the office because of heavy snow on these days were able to work from home using either their DEFRA laptop or web mail. A peak of 1,500 people were recorded on the Department's IT systems as having logged in concurrently from home during the week commencing 2 February. Staff who were unable to travel to the office or work from home may, with the agreement of their manager, have taken annual leave, flexible working hours leave or flexible hours credit, for which central records are not kept.

Guidance issued to staff referred to the following statement:

> "Appropriate credit time may be given for any unavoidable delays in arriving at work or unavoidable absences from work due to transport disruption or other exceptional circumstances such as extremely severe weather or for early departure for the same reason".

No estimate has been made of any cost to the Department or the number of working hours lost on these days.

Departmental Annual Reports

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what estimate he has made of the *(a)* production and printing and *(b)* other costs to his Department of producing its most recent (i) departmental annual report and (ii) autumn performance report. [266695]

Huw Irranca-Davies: Excluding staff costs, information held centrally shows that (i) DEFRA's 2008 departmental report cost £18,102 in external production and publication expenses and (ii) DEFRA's 2008 autumn performance report cost nothing to produce and publish (it was published only on the internet). An estimate of the staff costs involved could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Detergents

Annette Brooke: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if he will make it his policy to ensure that no cleaning products or ingredients of cleaning products used by his Department have been tested on animals. [261128]

Huw Irranca-Davies: DEFRA expects its providers of cleaning products or ingredients of cleaning products to test their products on animals only where there is a legal requirement to do so, and to comply with REACH (the EU regulation concerning the registration, evaluation, authorisation and restriction of chemicals).

Departmental Food

Tim Farron: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what estimate he has made of the *(a)* monetary value and *(b)* quantity of food disposed of from his Department's premises in the last 12 months. [264584]

Huw Irranca-Davies *[holding answer 19 March 2009]*: From information held centrally, the amount of food waste generated in the period January 2008 to December 2008 was a gross figure of 29,829 kg. This waste was turned into compost through bio-chemical bacterial anaerobic action producing a net figure of 20,843 kg of compost. The compost generated from the waste collected at DEFRA sites is not sent to landfill but given away to charities and local gardening schemes.

Departmental Lost Property

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs whether officials in his Department who have lost laptops that were the property of his Department in the last 12 months have been charged the full value of replacement. [266229]

Huw Irranca-Davies: This Department's IT services were outsourced to IBM in October 2004 at which point all IT equipment became the property of the new service provider. In instances where such equipment has been lost, officials have not been charged with replacement costs.

Departmental Public Expenditure

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what *(a)* capital and *(b)* resource funds his Department has brought forward from its (i) 2009-10 and (ii) 2010-11 budgets for use in (A) 2008-09 and (B) 2009-10; and what schemes this funding is being used to support. [265104]

Huw Irranca-Davies: As announced in the Chancellor's pre-Budget report in November 2008, in 2009-10, DEFRA is planning to bring forward £20 million capital spending on Environment Agency flood risk management and £5 million for British Waterways capital spending on network infrastructure maintenance. No resource budgets are being brought forward.

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much capital spending is planned to be brought forward by his Department to *(a)* 2008-09 and *(b)* 2009-10. [266294]

Huw Irranca-Davies: As announced in the Chancellor's pre-Budget report in November 2008, in 2009-10, DEFRA is planning to bring forward from 2010-11 £20 million capital spending on Environment Agency flood risk management and £5 million for British Waterways capital spending on network infrastructure maintenance.

Departmental Responsibilities

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what responsibilities have been assigned to the Minister for Animal Welfare in each of the last three years. [266961]

Jane Kennedy: Since 2005, three Ministers have been responsible for the animal welfare brief in DEFRA; Ben Bradshaw from 5 May 2006 to 5 May 2007, Lord Rooker from 6 May 2007 to 2 October 2008 and Jane Kennedy from 3 October 2008. Their current or past responsibilities are listed as follows:

Ben Bradshaw (5 May 2006 to 5 May 2007)

Air quality and noise
Animal health and welfare strategy
Animal Welfare Bill
Fisheries
Lead role on planning, regional, and local government issues
Local environmental quality
Marine issues (including Marine Bill and OSPAR)
SVS, VLA, VMD
Waste
Departmental Sustainable Development Minister
UK spokesperson at Agriculture Council

Lord Rooker (6 May 2007 to 2 October 2008)

Farming for the future programme
Rural Payments Agency
Food chain programme, stakeholder engagement and delivery chain core functions
Animal welfare core function
Exotic disease policy and delivery change programmes
Emergency response capability
Bovine TB programme
CAP reform and EU strategy programmes, evidence and knowledge base core functions
Better regulation
Endemic disease core functions
Veterinary policy and agencies
Animal health
Central Science Laboratory
Departmental administration
Responsibility and cost sharing programme

Jane Kennedy (3 October 2008 onwards)

Agriculture
Farming for the future programme
Rural Payments Agency
Food chain programme, stakeholder engagement and delivery chain core functions
Animal welfare
Exotic animal disease policy programme and emergency response capability
Bovine TB programme
Endemic animal disease core functions
Veterinary policy and agencies
Animal health
CAP reform and EU strategy programmes, evidence and knowledge base
Responsibility and cost sharing programme
Waste and recycling
Environment Agency
Minister for the Horse
Food and Environment Research Agency

Departmental Standards

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what estimate he has made of the cost to his Department of measuring compliance with its targets under its public service agreements in the last 12 months for which figures are available. [266567]

Huw Irranca-Davies: Measuring progress on public service agreement targets is an intrinsic part of driving delivery of those targets. The only additional cost of measuring compliance with the targets comes from reporting delivery progress to Parliament, for which I refer the hon. Member to my answer to PQ 266695.

Departmental Training

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs whether his Department has provided voice coaching to any of its employees in the last 12 months. [260647]

Huw Irranca-Davies: 'Voice coaching' is not a term recognised in our internal management-information systems, so information is not available.

Mr. Hands: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs pursuant to the answer of 23 February 2009, *Official Report*, column 7W, which Ministers attended each training course; what the name of each course was; and how much each course cost. [265657]

Huw Irranca-Davies: Ministers in DEFRA have taken the following personal training courses at public expense since 1 January 2008:

Training course	*Number of Ministers*
Communications training	1
Media training	1
Leadership training	1

Energy: EU Law

Mr. Carmichael: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what representations his Department has received raising concerns on the implementation of the Energy Using Products Directive; whether his Department is planning for the Directive to be implemented by 2013; and if he will make a statement on the implementation of the Directive. [263143]

Jane Kennedy: The EU's Framework Directive for the Eco-design of energy-using Products (2005/32/EC) was transposed into UK law on 11 August 2007 (SI 2007 No 2037). Eco-design requirements for individual product areas are established via implementing measures as set out in the framework. Up to 10 March 2009, five implementing measures have been voted on and approved by member states. Further measures are expected to be negotiated over the next year.

Officials in DEFRA engage stakeholders on the development of implementing measures in a variety of ways, including consulting on the European Commission's draft proposals, holding quarterly stakeholder events attended by industry representatives, green and consumer NGOs, and by engaging directly with stakeholders on a one-to-one basis, as appropriate.

The Government fully support the implementation of eco-design requirements on energy-using appliances.

Farmers: Income

Tim Farron: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) what recent estimate he has made of the average income of a sheep farmer; [267849]

(2) what estimate he has made of the number of sheep farmers who had an income of less than £10,000 in the last year for which figures are available. [267850]

Jane Kennedy *[holding answer 30 March 2009]:* Information is not published separately for specialist sheep farmers. These are included within the broader category of grazing livestock farms for the purpose of this analysis. Data from the Farm Business Survey[1] show that the average Farm Business Income in 2007-08 was £10,400 on grazing livestock farms in the Less Favoured Area (LFA)[2] and £12,400 on grazing livestock farms in the lowland[3]. Approximately 53 per cent. of grazing livestock farmers in the LFA had a farm business income lower that £10,000. For grazing livestock farmers in the lowlands the figure was 55 per cent.

Farm business income is the headline measure of the profitability of farm businesses. It represents the financial return to all unpaid labour (farmers and spouses, non-principal partners and directors and their spouses and family workers) and on all their capital invested in the farm business, including land and buildings.

[1] The Farm Business Survey sample covers businesses with a Standard Labour Requirement (SLR) of at least 0.5, i.e. a size considered sufficient to occupy a farmer for at least half their time.

[2] Farms with more than two-thirds of their total standard gross margin (SGM) in cattle and sheep except holdings classified as dairy. A farm is classified as in the LFA if 50 per cent. or more of its total area is in the EC Less Favoured Area (both disadvantaged and severely disadvantaged).

[3] Farms with more than two-thirds of their total SGM in cattle and sheep except holdings classified as dairy. A farm is classified as "lowland" if less than 50 per cent. of its total area is in the EU Less Favoured Area.

Fisheries

Mr. Gale: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what species of non-quota fish are available to be caught by craft under 10 metres seeking to fish *(a)* in the English Channel, *(b)* in the Thames Estuary and *(c)* off the North Foreland. [267891]

Huw Irranca-Davies *[holding answer 31 March 2009]:* Non-Total Allowable Catch (TAC) species make up 82 per cent. of the landings of UK under-10m vessels in the English Channel. Almost 90 per cent. of this is shellfish such as whelks, scallops, crabs and cuttlefish. The remainder is a diverse range of fish species including bass, anchovy, mullet and lemon sole.

Fisheries data are collected by statistical rectangle and it is not possible to provide figures specifically for the Thames Estuary or North Foreland. However, the non-quota shellfish cockles make up almost 100 per cent. of landings of under-10m vessels from the inner Thames estuary inside Whitstable.

Non-quota species make up 60 per cent. of the landings of <10m vessels operating in the outer Thames estuary and the remaining coastline from Folkestone to Felixstowe, including North Foreland. Almost 90 per cent. of this is shellfish including cockles, scallops, whelks, crabs and lobsters. The remainder is fish such as bass, dogfish and mullet.

The following tables summarise data from the Fleet Activity Database for 2008[1], giving tonnes landed by <10m UK vessels in 2008.

[1] Held by the Marine and Fisheries Agency.

English Channel (ICES Div VIId and VIIe)

	Tonnes	Percentage	
TAC spp	2,489	19	—
Non TAC fish	1,274	10	Mainly bass, anchovy, grey mullet, lemon sole, pilchards, turbot and other demersal species
Non TAC shellfish	9,475	72	Mainly whelks, scallops, crabs and cuttlefish

Outer Thames estuary rectangles 31F1 and 32F1—including from Folkestone to Whitstable (including Foreland) and Brightlingsea to Felixstowe

	Tonnes	Percentage	
TAC spp	673	40	—
Non TAC fish	116	7	Mainly bass, smooth-hound, dogfish, mullet
Non TAC shellfish	907	53	Cockles, scallops, whelks, crabs, lobsters, oysters

Inner Thames estuary (out to Whitstable) rectangles 31F0 and 32F0

	Tonnes	Percentage	
TAC spp	28	0	—
Non TAC fish	4	0	Mainly mullet, bass
Non TAC shellfish	10,105	100	Mainly cockles

A full species list has been placed in the Library of the House.

Flood Control

Norman Lamb: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs when each planned flooding and coastal protection project is planned to be started; whether the start of any planned project has been deferred; and if he will make a statement. [265768]

Huw Irranca-Davies: The Environment Agency's Medium Term Plan for England is funded by the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) and includes those flood and coastal risk management capital schemes being delivered by the Environment Agency, local authorities and internal drainage boards.

The Plan includes schemes funded in the 2008-09 financial year (from 1 April 2008 to 31 March 2009); schemes that have been given an indicative allocation of funding for the financial years 2009-10 and 2010-11; and schemes planned for 2011-12 and 2012-13 subject to funding being available.

The Plan shows the current start date for each scheme. The Plan is constantly changing to reflect progress in developing, approving, designing and constructing a project. Projects are delayed for many reasons including securing planning permissions and other permissions from local authorities and others, prioritisation of the programme and funding availability.

30 Environment Agency projects (each with a construction budget of over £250,000) have been identified for implementation in the 2007-08 Medium Term Plan. Two of these projects are currently not being progressed.

The Ipswich Flood Defence Management Strategy civil works is on hold as it is rescheduled for implementation in 2011-12 as part of the delivery of the Ipswich strategy. This project has a budget of £544,500.

The Ashburton Ballard Stream Improvements project has closed as the scheme is not economically viable. This project spent £31,500 on the pre-feasibility study.

Nick Herbert: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs when he expects the Environment Agency to publish its updated flood risk maps. [267551]

Huw Irranca-Davies: The Environment Agency makes local updates to the flood risk maps on its website on a quarterly basis. The latest update took place on 26 March 2009.

The Environment Agency plans to publish the latest national flood risk assessment information on its website in the spring. This will provide a major upgrade to the Environment Agency's flood risk maps.

Nick Herbert: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many households in England are considered to have a greater than 1 in 75 annual probability of flooding. [267552]

Huw Irranca-Davies: The Environment Agency published its latest national flood risk assessment in 2006. This showed that 392,800 residential properties were at significant risk of flooding. Significant risk is defined as a greater than one in 75 annual probability of flooding.

Flood Control: Expenditure

Norman Lamb: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much was spent by his Department on flooding and coastal protection projects in areas at risk from *(a)* fluvial and coastal flooding and *(b)* coastal erosion in each of the last three years. [265756]

Huw Irranca-Davies: The following table shows the total funding that was allocated to the Environment Agency as flood defence grant in aid over the last three years.

	Total funding (£ million)
2006-07	419
2007-08	439
2008-09	495

The following table shows funding allocated by the Environment Agency to capital projects and revenue expenditure. The allocation process ensures that resources are directed to the locations with the highest risk of flooding.

		£ million
	Capital	*Revenue*
2006-07	189	230
2007-08	203	236
2008-09	238	257

The following table shows the additional coastal erosion grants that were allocated to coastal authorities.

	Coastal grants (£ million)
2006-07	65
2007-08	49
2008-09	30

Source:
DEFRA website and Environment Agency financial records.

Floods: East Sussex

Mr. Waterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many warnings of floods affecting *(a)* Eastbourne and *(b)* East Sussex have been issued by the Environment Agency in each year of the last 10 years. [267245]

Huw Irranca-Davies: The following table shows that 496 flood watches, flood warnings and severe flood warnings were issued in East Sussex since September 2000 (the date from which Environment Agency data are available), of which 58 were issued for Eastbourne.

Year (starting from September)	*Watches*	*Warnings*	*Severe Warnings*	*Total*
East Sussex				
2000	54	48	21	123
2001	40	21	2	63
2002	79	23	0	102
2003	21	9	0	30
2004	[illegible]	2	0	22
2005	11	0	0	11
2006	33	0	0	33
2007	30	0	0	30
2008	33	18	0	51
2009	17	14	0	31
Total	—	—	—	496
Eastbourne				
2000	11	4	0	15
2001	3	0	0	3
2002	12	2	0	14
2003	3	0	0	3
2004	2	1	0	3
2005	1	0	0	1
2006	9	0	0	9
2007	3	0	0	3
2008	5	0	0	5
2009	2	0	0	2
Total	—	—	—	58

Source:
The Environment Agency's Flood Warnings Direct service and Environment Agency historic databases

Floods: Property Development

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs which planning authorities have made representations to the Environment Agency seeking as waiver of the restrictions on building in flood risk areas since 27 January; and if he will make a statement. [265518]

Huw Irranca-Davies *[holding answer 20 March 2009]:* The Environment Agency has no powers to either restrict or waive restrictions on building in flood risk areas. The Environment Agency is a consultee in the planning process, providing technical advice and information on the flood risk implications of development proposals. The Environment Agency may object to developments that do not comply with planning policy statement 25—Development and Flood Risk, but the final planning decision rests with the local planning authority.

Fly Tipping

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs which 10 local authority areas experienced the greatest tonnage of fly-tipped waste in the most recent 12-month period for which figures are available. [267810]

Jane Kennedy: DEFRA does not hold the information requested. While instances of fly-tipping are recorded, tonnages are not.

Food and Environment Research Agency

Lynne Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what the expenditure was of each of the offices and services merged to form the Food and Environment Research Agency in each of the last 10 years; what buildings are occupied by each such constituent office; and what plans he has for the future location of that agency. [267434]

Huw Irranca-Davies: The annual expenditure of each of the different services now merged to form FERA is shown in the tables.

The buildings currently occupied by the constituent offices forming FERA are also shown in the tables.

The Agency has no immediate plans to consolidate onto one site in each city other than in York, where a small number of former PHD staff will move to Sand Hutton and in Cambridge where a small number of PHSI staff will be relocated.

Any future office moves will be driven by the need to improve sustainability and value for money.

Site name	*Name*
Beverley, Crosskill House	PHSI
Bury St. Edmunds, Government Buildings, Southgate Street	PHSI
Cambridge, Eastbrook (staff moving to Whitehouse Lane)	PHSI
Cambridge, Whitehouse Lane (PVS)	PVS
Chelmsford, Government Buildings	PHSI
Chichester, City Business Centre	PHSI
Chorley, West Business Park—Unit 6	PHSI
Crewe Electra Way—Building	PHSI
Exeter, Clyst House	PHSI
Felixstowe Trelawney House	PHSI
Gatwick, Gatwick Airport	PHSI
Gloucester, Woodchester Park	CSL
Hereford Whitestone Business Park	PHSI
Heathrow,Vista Business Ctre—Suite 32 Heathrow	PHSI
Kings Lynn Vancouver House	PHSI
Kirton Middlecott House	PHSI
Leeds, Government Buildgs—Wing 16	PHSI
Lewes Medwyn House	PHSI
Lincoln Ceres House	PHSI
Llandrindod	PHSI
London, Millbank	PHSI
Manchester Rm 001 and 002 Bldg 308, World Freight Terminal	PHSI
Newcastle-Upon-Tyne, Quadrant Hse	PHSI
Northallerton, Alverton Court—Unit 1	PHSI
Northampton Beaumont House	PHSI
Norwich, Gilders Way, Norwich	PHSI
Nottingham, Chalfont Drive—Room 16 Spur G	PHSI
Reading Government Buildings, Coley Park, Reading	PHSI
Sheerness Anchor House	PHSI
Shrewsbury Whitehall Monkmoor Road	PHSI
RAF Stafford (GDS)	GDS
Stafford, Beacon House, Animal Health	PHSI
Stevenage Richmond Hse	PHSI
Swansea, Department for Environment office, Swansea	PHSI
Taunton Quantock House	PHSI
Tilbury, St. Andrew's House, Essex	PHSI
Trowbridge, Longacre House	PHSI
Truro—Pydar House	PHSI
Truro—Polwhele, (Phytophthera unit)	PHSI
Winchester Cromwell House	PHSI
Witney, Long Hanborough, Witney	PHSI
Worcester, Whittington Road—Block B	PHSI
Wye, Ashford, Kent	PHSI
York, Sand Hutton	CSL
York, Foss House	PHD
York, Foss House	PHSI

Total expenditure are as merged to form Food and Environment Research Agency

	CSL	*GDS*[1]	*PVS*[2]	*PHD incl. PHSI*[3]
1998-99	39,810	—	—	—
1999-2000	34,609	—	5,554	—
2000-01	37,052	—	5,190	—
2001-02	40,125	—	5,037	7,903
2002-03	43,000	—	4,902	9,541
2003-04	41,583	—	4,931	8,908
2004-05	43,623	—	6,308	9,559
2005-06	46,540	950	6,381	9,601
2006-07	48,213	2,204	4,472	11,658
2007-08	47,594	1,979	2,485	11,310

[1] GDS only operated as an Agency from October 2005.

[2] Uncertainty over some figures, especially 2007-08, prior years information not available.

[3] Based on 'admin' and 'programme' allocations not actual expenditure, prior years information not available.

Food Supply

Mr. Holloway: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps his Department is taking to ensure the security of food supply. [268339]

Hilary Benn: By any objective standard, the UK enjoys a high degree of food security. DEFRA has a new co-ordination role for food policy across Government and a new departmental strategic objective for a sustainable, secure and healthy food supply. We are working with our stakeholders to ensure that our food remains sustainably produced, distributed and consumed in future, and that it is available and affordable for all sectors of society.

Fuels: RAF Fairford

Colin Challen: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps his Department has taken in relation to the fuel spillage at RAF Fairford on 25 February 2009; and what assessment his Department has made of the effects of the spillage on *(a)* water supply and *(b)* plant and animal life. [267288]

Huw Irranca-Davies: The Environment Agency was notified by the Ministry of Defence of the aviation fuel spill on 25 February 2009 and attended the air force base immediately. The Environment Agency found that the fuel had affected local ground and a surface water ditch off site. The Ministry of Defence put into operation their emergency response plan to contain and clean up the spill.

The Environment Agency attended the site for three days afterwards and ensured that the Ministry of Defence investigated the full impact of the spill to the local environment: this included surveys to ensure no fuel had affected local groundwater.

The Environment Agency has also completed an investigation which has shown no effect on water supply. A local ditch had been recently cleared by the landowner and contained no notable plant and animal life. The Environment Agency continues to work with the Ministry of Defence to ensure they remove all the fuel and contaminated soil from the site.

Members: Correspondence

Mr. Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs when he plans to reply to the letter from the hon. Member for Torbay of 5 November 2008, transferred from the Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform, on energy conservation. [264768]

Joan Ruddock: I have been asked to reply.

I replied to the letter on 31 March 2009 and apologise for the delay in replying, which was due to departmental reorganisation.

Steve Webb: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs when he plans to reply to the letter from the hon. Member for Northavon of 9 December 2008 sent on behalf of Mr. Andrew Mearman of Thornbury, on cross-contamination of GM crops. [267262]

Huw Irranca-Davies: I have recently sent a reply to the hon. Member for Northavon.

Pigs: Animal Welfare

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent discussions he has had with the Farm Animal Welfare Council on tail-docking and teeth clipping in growing pigs. [267484]

Jane Kennedy: At the Government's request, the Farm Animal Welfare Council (FAWC) is conducting a study on the mutilations of growing pigs. Both tail docking and teeth clipping are included in the study. FAWC has recently published a consultation on the issue and the intention is that the Committee's opinion will be submitted to Ministers in summer 2010.

Power Stations: EU Law

Greg Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs pursuant to the answer of 2 March 2009, *Official Report*, column 1330W, on power stations: EC law, whether the Environment Agency plans to apply derogations for plants from the provisions of the EU Large Combustion Plant Directive. [266663]

Jane Kennedy: The Environment Agency already applies, where sought, the derogations provided in Article 5(1) and paragraph 2 of Part A of Annex VIII of the Large Combustion Plants Directive (2001/80/EC). These relate respectively to the emission limit value for sulphur dioxide for existing plants operating less than 2,000 hours annually and to monitoring requirements in specified circumstances. The Environment Agency is aware there is no need to consider granting the derogations in Article 7 which refer to breakdown or a sudden change in fuel use.

Greg Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs pursuant to the answer of 2 March 2009, *Official Report*, column 1330W, on power stations: EC law, whether his Department plans to make further provisions in relation to the operation of power stations to which derogations from the EU Large Combustion Plant Directive are applied. [267006]

Jane Kennedy: Derogations contained in the Large Combustion Plants Directive (2001/20/EC) are for the competent authority (the Environment Agency in England and Wales) to apply as it sees fit in the light of discussion with the plant operator concerned. DEFRA has no plans to make provisions in that respect.

Private Finance Initiative

Tim Farron: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what contracts under the private finance initiative his Department has entered into in each of the last four years; and what the monetary value of each was. [268461]

Huw Irranca-Davies: The Department of Environment, Food and Rural Affairs has not entered into any private finance initiative contracts in any of the last four years.

The Department facilitates local authorities to enter into PFI contracts in the waste sector using credits provided through HM Treasury, but it is not itself one of the parties in these deals.

Seal Products: EU Action

Alun Michael: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps he is taking at EU level to encourage a prohibition on seal products entering the EU. [268328]

Huw Irranca-Davies: Commission proposals for a ban on the import of seal products into the EU were discussed for the first time by the Council of Ministers on 20 October. The Czech presidency has committed to getting agreement, on a workable ban before the end of this term in the European Parliament and we are working closely with the Council and other member states to support these efforts.

Soya: Imports

Jeff Ennis: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what proportion of imported soya was produced in Bolivia in the latest period for which information is available. [264543]

Jane Kennedy: According to HMRC official overseas trade statistics, in 2008, no UK imports of soya were recorded as originating from Bolivia. In 2007, 0.02 per cent. of UK imports of soya were recorded as originating from Bolivia. This is based on the volume of trade and includes both soya beans and soya meal. 2008 figures are provisional.

CHURCH COMMISSIONERS

Churches: Expenditure

Mr. Gibb: To ask the hon. Member for Middlesbrough, representing the Church Commissioners how much the Church Commissioners spent on church buildings in *(a)* 2006 and *(b)* 2007. [268848]

Sir Stuart Bell: I refer the hon. Gentleman to the answer I gave to the hon. Member for Vale of York (Miss McIntosh) on 20 March 2009, *Official Report*, column 1405W.

WALES

Departmental Public Expenditure

Dr. Cable: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what his latest estimate is of his Department's capital expenditure in *(a)* 2008-09, *(b)* 2009-10, *(c)* 2010-11 and *(d)* 2011-12; and if he will make a statement. [268129]

Mr. Paul Murphy: Our annual capital budget for the current spending review up to 2010-11 is £767,000 per annum and we have no plans to reprofile this.

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

Africa: Conflict Prevention

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the written ministerial statement of 25 March 2009, *Official Report*, columns 17-19WS, on conflict resources 2009-10, what expenditure his Department had allocated to peacekeeping and conflict resolution in each country in Africa before the revision announced in his statement; how much such expenditure was incurred in each country in Africa in *(a)* 2006-07 and *(b)* 2007-08; and which programmes in West and Southern Africa will no longer be pursued. [267873]

David Miliband: As set out in my written ministerial statement of 25 March 2009, *Official Report*, column 17-19WS, due to a large projected increase in the UK's assessed peacekeeping costs, £456 million of the £556 million available in 2009-10 for the Public Service Agreement for Preventing and Resolving Conflict (PSA 30) under the Comprehensive Spending Review has been ear-marked to cover this projected increase. The remaining £100 million has been supplemented by £71 million from departmental budgets to give a total of £171 million from which all discretionary conflict prevention, stabilisation and peacekeeping activity will be funded. The Africa Programme has been allocated £43 million of this £171 million and spending under the programme has been prioritised to focus on the most pressing conflict issues within the continent.

In 2009-10, the Africa Conflict Prevention Pool will focus resources in West Africa on support to Sierra Leone, where the UK will continue to support reform of the security sector and the Sierra Leone armed forces through the International Military Assistance Training Team, and Nigeria where the UK will finance the establishment of a Joint Maritime Security Training Centre to enhance security in the Niger Delta, as well as conflict prevention activities in the Delta region. The UK will complete a phased withdrawal of the British Military Assistance Training Team and associated conflict prevention activities in Ghana. In Southern Africa, the UK will continue to support conflict prevention work in Zimbabwe, which focuses on fostering good governance, as well as maintaining co-operation with South Africa on peacekeeping training through the Peace Mission Training Centre (PMTC) and the British Peace Support Training Team (BPST) in South Africa, which will support regional conflict prevention activities.

Expenditure allocated by the Government to discretionary peacekeeping and conflict prevention in Africa in 2006-07 and 2007-08 broken down by country is detailed in the following table. UK assessed peacekeeping costs for missions in Africa were £149 million in 2006-07 and £172 million in 2007-08.

Africa conflict prevention and discretionary peacekeeping expenditure by country

£

	2006-07 ACPP	2006-07 Discretionary Peacekeeping	2007-08 ACPP	2007-08 Discretionary Peacekeeping
Horn				
Djibouti	6,939	—	0	—
Ethiopia	0	—	274,205	—
Somalia	830,524	—	511,406	8,267,346
Sudan	8,796,777	35,501,455	6,507,198	13,848,845
Regional	0	—	270,742	—
Central/East				
Burundi	0	—	1,499,799	—
DRC	3,776,481	643,712	4,082,543	1,156,142
Gabon	3,172	—	0	—
Kenya	3,389,860	—	5,372,200	—
Rwanda	116,421	—	235,678	—
Tanzania	0	—	681,900	—
Uganda	870,000	—	1,478,680	—
Great Lakes / Regional	2,536,783	—	5,265,285	—
Southern				
Angola	609,453	—	847,649	—
Botswana	213,500	—	45,000	—
Comoros	0	236,704	0	—
Lesotho	101,000	—	22,000	—
Malawi	225,010	—	355,321	—
Mozambique	205,900	—	362,752	—
Namibia	33,500	—	108,000	—
South Africa	1,946,000	—	1,986,000	—

Africa conflict prevention and discretionary peacekeeping expenditure by country

£

	2006-07 ACPP	2006-07 Discretionary Peacekeeping	2007-08 ACPP	2007-08 Discretionary Peacekeeping
Swaziland	0	—	8,229	—
Zambia	40,000	—	102,975	—
Zimbabwe	1,987,942	—	3,125,741	—
West				
Cameroon	172,110	—	0	—
Cote d'Ivoire	0	—	15,681	—
ECOWAS / Regional	1,246,592	—	400,000	—
Gambia	0	—	264,000	—
Ghana	5,218,057	—	4,416,437	—
Guinea-Bissau	0	—	44,640	—
Guinea	0	—	75,000	—
Regional	0	—	115,966	—
Liberia	2,495,186	400,000	2,014,157	549,240
Sierra Leone	16,095,000	4,407,413	14,032,000	3,311,339
Senegal	169,750	—	273,000	—
Togo	21,168	—	0	—
Nigeria	2,401,318	—	2,451,572	—
Pan-Africa				
Africa Union	1,727,293	1,727,293	160,842	160,842
Pan-Africa NGOs	1,725,524	1,725,524	1,731,110	1,731,110
Pan-Africa (MOD)	0	0	445,500	445,500
Total	56,961,260	44,642,101	60,083,208	29,470,368

Anti-Semitism

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the Answer of 26 March 2009, *Official Report*, column 603W, on France: anti-Semitism, what steps his Department has taken to reduce the incidence of anti-Semitism in the last 12 months; and if he will make a statement. [268580]

Gillian Merron: The Government are committed to tackling and reducing anti-Semitism. We work closely with the International Coalition Combating anti-Semitism, and co-hosted an international Conference on anti-Semitism at Lancaster House on 17 February 2009. The Foreign and Commonwealth Office leads the UK Delegation to the International Task Force on Holocaust Education and Remembrance and works through its posts to monitor and tackle anti-Semitism overseas.

Canada: Oil

Rob Marris: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what reports he has received on the effects on *(a)* First Nations and *(b)* levels of carbon dioxide emissions of extracting oil from the tar sands in Alberta, Canada. [263274]

Gillian Merron *[holding answer 31 March 2009]:* We have received reports that First Nation groups are concerned that contamination and water drainage associated with extracting oil from the oil sands could damage the Athabasca/Peace River area. First Nations also dispute, in some cases, the leasing of the land where oil sands are located, arguing the provincial government should consult with them before it grants leases to companies.

We have received reports that the current production processes used in the oil sands contribute up to three times the greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions (primarily carbon dioxide) compared with conventional oil production (based on figures contained in the Pembina Institute's Report Oil Sands Fever November 2005).

The Alberta oil sands currently account for approximately 5 per cent. of Canada's GHG emissions, though this level is estimated to rise to 16 per cent. by 2020 (based on figures contained in the Canadian Government's Turning the Corner Update March 2008).

In December 2008 Canada and the UK signed a Joint Statement on Carbon Capture and Storage, agreeing to work closely to develop and promote carbon capture technologies as a means to reducing GHG emissions.

Colombia: Military Aid

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs in which year the Government ceased to provide counter-insurgency advice to the Colombian armed forces. [265159]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: I have been asked to reply.

The UK has not provided specific counter-insurgency assistance to the Columbian armed forces.

Conflict Prevention

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the written ministerial statement of 25 March 2009, *Official Report*, columns 17-19WS, on conflict resources 2009-10, what his Department's definition of the geographical area of wider Europe is; what the programme cost for peacekeeping and conflict resolution in each country in the wider Europe area was before the revision announced in the Statement; and on what activities such expenditure was expected to be incurred. [267868]

David Miliband: The new wider Europe Conflict Prevention Programme (CPP) will cover western Balkans (focusing on Kosovo, Bosnia and Herzegovina and Serbia) and Russia/Commonwealth of Independent States (focusing on Russia, Georgia, Azerbaijan and Moldova). From this programme, we will also fund the UK contribution to the UN force in Cyprus (UNFICYP).

The overall budget for conflict prevention, stabilisation and peacekeeping was set for the comprehensive spending review period 2008-09 to 2010-11. Within this, the allocations to individual regional conflict prevention programmes are set annually after consultation between the Department for International Development, the Ministry of Defence and the Foreign and Commonwealth Office. The new wider Europe CPP has been allocated £33 million for 2009-10 financial year.

Further details on changes to funding of projects and future activities were set out in a letter from my right hon. Friend the Minister for Europe (Caroline Flint) to the chairman of the European Scrutiny Committee of 25 March 2009, a copy of which has been placed in the Library of the House.

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the written ministerial statement of 25 March 2009, *Official Report*, columns 17-19WS, on conflict resources 2009-10, what the projected rise in peacekeeping costs for 2009-10 is; and what percentage increase on costs incurred in 2008-09 this represents. [267871]

David Miliband: We estimate that gross assessed costs to international missions paid from the Peacekeeping Budget in 2008-09 will be £332,611,787. However, this will be reduced by a transfer of £29.4 million from the Foreign and Commonwealth Office which includes the benefits of the advanced purchase of foreign currency. The net payments are therefore estimated to be around £303.2 million.

In 2009-10 we have budgeted for assessed costs in the region of £456 million after the benefits of advanced purchase of foreign currency. This would be an increase of £152.7 million or 50 per cent. over 2008-09 net costs.

Departmental Bank Services

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the Answer of 12 March 2009, *Official Report*, column 621W, on departmental bank services, what the monetary value is of the contract between his Department and HiFX Intelligent Financial Services. [268304]

Gillian Merron: The monthly cost of the HiFX Intelligent Financial Services contract is £3,000 plus VAT.

Departmental Press

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how much his Department has spent on newspapers, magazines and periodicals in each year since 1997. [261174]

Gillian Merron: We are unable to provide a breakdown prior to 2004 as all information was migrated into a new financial accounting system in March 2004. Providing this information for before this date would incur disproportionate cost. The figures from 2004 are as follows:

Financial year	*Amount (£)*
2004-05	2,101,892.15
2005-06	1,747,126.86
2006-07	2,221,786.79
2007-08	3,207,113.97
2008-09	1,973,251.48

Departmental Public Expenditure

Dr. Cable: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what proportion of his Department's final expenditure he expects to be delivered in *(a)* sterling, *(b)* euros and *(c)* US dollars in the current financial year; and if he will make a statement. [268080]

Gillian Merron: In 2008-09, we drew down £1,963 million from HM Treasury to fund our global operations. Some of the draw down was used to buy $693 million and €181 million.

Departmental Rail Travel

Mr. Hurd: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what guidance his Department issues on whether members of staff may claim for travel in first class carriages on trains if there are no seats in standard class. [268546]

Caroline Flint: First class travel is permitted on rail journeys where the one way journey time by the quickest and shortest route is two hours or longer according to published arrival and departure times in the timetable. For journeys of less than two hours all staff should travel standard class (whether or not seats are available). Exemptions to this guidance require prior approval and are only granted in rare and exceptional circumstances (for example certain health conditions or disabilities).

EC Institutions: Manpower

Gregory Barker: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what steps he has taken to increase the number of British nationals working in European Union institutions. [265217]

Gillian Merron: The Government are continuing to engage with the EU institutions as they introduce reforms to recruitment competitions, seek to increase their outreach activities, and develop their staffing policy in general. We are also exploring options for improving European expertise through the Fast Stream, to increase the numbers of UK nationals applying for and passing the EU's recruitment competitions.

Falkland Islands: Renewable Energy

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what steps his Department has taken to encourage the development of renewable energy sources in the Falkland Islands. [267109]

Gillian Merron: Responsibility for renewable energy targets lies with the Falkland Islands Government. The Falkland Islands Government signed the United Kingdom Overseas Environment Charter in 2001 and the Kyoto Agreement has been extended and applied to the Falkland Islands since 2007.

On the operational side, the wind farm in Stanley came online in August 2007 and now produces 3,600,000 units per annum (24 per cent. of the annual electricity production for Stanley). Stanley power station aims to double the installed turbine wind capacity to provide 40 per cent. of annual electricity production from renewable energy sources by February 2010.

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what targets have been established between his Department and the Falkland Islands government regarding power generation from wind turbines in the Falkland Islands over the next five years. [267106]

Gillian Merron: Responsibility for power generation from wind turbines on the Falkland Islands lies with the Falkland Islands government and forms part of the Falkland Islands government's development of renewable energy sources. The Falkland Islands government signed, the United Kingdom Overseas Environment Charter in 2001 and the Kyoto agreement has been extended and applied to the Falkland Islands since 2007.

On the operational side, the wind farm in Stanley came on line in August 2007 and now produces 3,600,000 units per annum (24 per cent. of the annual electricity production for Stanley). Stanley power station aims to double the installed turbine wind capacity to provide 40 per cent. of annual electricity production from renewable energy sources by February 2010.

Falkland Islands: Tourism

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what steps his Department is taking to increase tourism between the United Kingdom and the Falkland Islands. [267107]

Gillian Merron: Responsibility for tourism lies with the Falkland Islands Tourist Board who have a strategy to improve tourism. The Falkland Islands is a popular tourist destination. For example, 62,000 visitors arrived in the Falkland Islands on cruise ships during the 2007-08 cruise ship season and this number included many visitors from the United Kingdom.

Latin America: Conflict Prevention

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the written ministerial statement of 25 March 2009, *Official Report*, columns 17-19WS, on conflict resources 2009-10, what his Department's expenditure on the programme for peacekeeping and conflict resolution in Latin America was in each of the last five years; and in which countries and on what activities such expenditure was incurred. [267872]

David Miliband: As the financial information requested is detailed and will take time to collate, I will write to the right hon. Member with a response, placing a copy in the Library of the House.

Serbia: EU Accession

Mrs. Curtis-Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the Answer of 26 March 2009, *Official Report*, column 606W, on Ratko Mladic, what his policy is on Serbian accession to the EU in the event that Ratko Mladic is not arrested; and if he will make a statement. [266193]

Caroline Flint: The EU General Affairs and External Relations Council conclusions of April 2008 recalled that the pace and conclusion of the negotiations on the EU's Stabilisation and Association Agreement with Serbia would depend (in particular) on Serbia's full co-operation with the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia (ICTY). This condition is still outstanding.

For the UK, evidence of full co-operation would be a period of committed and sustained activity from the Serbian Government, demonstrating one hundred percent effort and political will. Co-operation with the tribunal covers efforts in a wide range of areas including: tackling support networks; meeting requests for documents; allowing access to archives; ensuring protection of witnesses; as well as locating and transferring the two remaining indictees, Ratko Mladic and Goran Hadzic.

UN World Conference against Racism

Mr. Gerrard: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what the membership of the UK's delegation to the Durban Review Conference on Racism in Geneva in April 2009 will be; and whether he plans to consult on proposals to be put forward by the delegation prior to the Conference. [267843]

Gillian Merron: The UK remains actively engaged in the Durban Review process and we will keep our position under review. No decision has yet been taken on the composition of our delegation.

Various stakeholders have approached the Government throughout the process, and we have taken their concerns into account.

The Government have, on several occasions, expressed their view on the Durban Review Conference, the follow-up to the 2001 World Conference Against Racism. We want the conference to forge a collective will to fight against racism in all its forms, in all countries in the world.

Written Questions: Government Responses

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs when he plans to answer Question 246221, tabled on 8 December 2008 by the hon. Member for Portsmouth South, on the UN reform; and what the reasons are for the time taken to answer. [267907]

Gillian Merron: This question was answered on 30 March 2009, *Official Report*, column 861W. The delay in replying was due to an administrative error.

HOME DEPARTMENT

Anti-Semitism: Publications

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what assessment she has made of the availability of *(a)* anti-Semitic and *(b)* pro-Nazi publications in shops in London; and if she will make a statement. [illegible]

Mr. Alan Campbell: The police and, where necessary, the security services, already monitor and evaluate the words and actions of individuals and organisations preaching racially inflammatory messages and take action where appropriate. Racially inflammatory material that could be perceived as potential incitement to the committing of hate related crime should be reported to the police for evaluation and assessment.

Cannabis: Young People

Mr. Walker: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent estimate she has made of the number of *(a)* boys and *(b)* girls aged 14-15 years old who have used cannabis in each of the last 10 years. [267675]

Mr. Alan Campbell: The information requested on the number of boys and girls aged 14 and 15 who have used cannabis are not routinely produced and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

However table 1, following, shows figures on the proportion of boys and girls aged 14 and 15 who have used cannabis in each year between 2001 and 2007, according to the survey of smoking, drinking and drug use among young people in England.

Table 1: Proportion of boys and girls who had taken cannabis in the last year, by age

	2001	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2007*
Boys						
14 (percentage)	19	22	20	19	18	14
Base	[illegible]	965	1,026	983	944	607
15 (percentage)	32	33	33	27	28	22
Base	1,036	1,126	1,161	1,083	1,009	932
Girls						
14 (percentage)	19	18	21	15	17	13
Base	950	956	[illegible]	925	961	715
15 (percentage)	30	28	30	26	26	22
Base	950	1,020	1,118	1,029	979	993

Notes:
1. Figures prior to 2001 are not given as they are not comparable.
2. Figures for 2006 have not been reported.

Source:
Survey of smoking, drinking and drug use among young people in England.

Community Relations: Finance

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the written answer by Baroness Andrews of 9 March 2009, *Official Report*, House of Lords, WA 212-3, on the Preventing Violent Extremism Pathfinder Fund, if her Department will adopt a policy requiring public bodies that have received funding from it to prevent violent extremism to report annually *(a)* to which community groups and individuals they have allocated funding and *(b)* on the work they have undertaken and how they plan to monitor its effectiveness. [illegible]

Mr. Coaker *[holding answer 26 March 2009]*: The Home Office provides grant funding to a number of public bodies to assist in their activities to prevent violent extremism. This includes the Youth Justice Board, the National Offender Management Service and the police. These organisations are required to regularly report to the Department on expenditure, and account for their activities such that we can evaluate their effectiveness and value for money. This includes where they in turn, provide funding to community organisations.

In respect of funding provided via local authorities, this is allocated through the area based grant—a non-ring fenced grant fund which allows local authorities to decide the most effective and efficient routes to invest their resources for the delivery of local priorities.

Authorities are measured on the outcomes they achieve using this funding through the National Indicator Set.

All authorities, including those who have received area-based grant funding in support of their work to prevent violent extremism, must therefore report to Government annually against National Indicator 35, an indicator in the National Indicator Set which measures progress in building resilience to violent extremism. Work to prevent violent extremism is included in the Comprehensive Area Assessment process, led by the Audit Commission, which assesses how well local services are working together to improve the quality of life for local people.

We continue to work closely with local authorities to deliver this agenda and the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government wrote to the Speaker of the House of Commons on 17 March, copied to Paul Goodman MP, agreeing to provide information about the groups that local authorities are working with.

Council for the Registration of Forensic Practitioners

Mr. Vaizey: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department for what reasons the decision to close the Council of the Registration of Forensic Practitioners was taken before the conclusion of the Department's consultation on the review of the options for the accreditation of forensic practitioners. [267112]

Mr. Alan Campbell *[holding answer 26 March 2009]*: The Council for the Registration of Forensic Practitioners (CRFP) Board took the decision to wind up the company. By far the largest stakeholders in CRFP are the police who make up over 70 per cent. of the CRFP register, costing police forces about £350,000 per annum. Police forces recently gave notice of their intention to withdraw, leaving CRFP with significant funding shortages that could not be met by the grant in aid, regardless of the outcome of the regulator's review of the options for accreditation.

Crime: Detection Rates

Mr. Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the crime detection rate in each police force in England was in 2007-08. [256685]

Mr. Coaker: The information requested is provided in Table 7.03 on page 179 of "Crime in England and Wales 2007/08". A copy of this publication is available at:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pdfs08/hosb0708.pdf

Crimes of Violence: Tamworth

Mr. Jenkins: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the percentage change in the number of violent crimes committed in Tamworth constituency between 2007 and 2008 was. [267999]

Mr. Alan Campbell: A number of changes have been made to recorded crime in response to suggestions in two reviews of crime statistics. One such change is that the term 'violent crime' is no longer used in connection with the recorded crime statistics and we now provide figures for violence against the person.

The available information shows that there was a fall of 19 per cent. in recorded offences of violence against the person in Tamworth between 2006-07 and 2007-08.

Departmental Written Questions

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) how many named day questions tabled to her Department during the current session have received a holding reply; how many are awaiting a substantive reply; and if she will make a statement; [266991]

(2) what steps she is taking to reduce the time taken by her Department to answer named day questions; and if she will make a statement. [266992]

Mr. Alan Campbell: All parliamentary questions that do not receive a substantive answer on the day nominated by hon. Members receive a holding reply as a matter of courtesy.

The table shows current Home Office performance for providing a substantive response to named day questions in the 2008-09 session, to 25 March.

The Department continually reviews its processes for handling parliamentary questions, including named day questions, in order to improve performance.

Named day[1] performance, Session 2008-09, to 25 March 2009

Answered	*Total*	*Cumulative percentage*
On named day	94	26
Between one and three sitting days after named day	125	61
Four sitting days and over after named day	87	85
Outstanding	52	100
Total	358	—

[1] Named day questions include oral questions that are unstarred or not reached on the day.

Eddie Gilfoyle

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if she will refer the case of Mr. Eddie Gilfoyle to the Independent Police Complaints Commission. [260694]

Jacqui Smith: There were two separate supervised investigations conducted by the Police Complaints Authority (PCA) (October 1993 to September 1994 and February 1996 to April 1997) into complaints made by Mr. Gilfoyle's family about the Merseyside police investigation.

The IPCC reviewed the PCA investigation files and concluded that there was no new evidence of police misconduct to justify a referral to the IPCC.

Entry Clearances

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many persons working for her Department were discovered not to have the requisite permission to be in the UK in each of the last three years. [254415]

Jacqui Smith: No employees of the Home Office were found to be working without permission to be in the UK in these three years.

Forensic Science

Damian Green: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what timetable she has set for publication of the Forensics White Paper. [267894]

Mr. Alan Campbell: We are currently considering the timetable for the Forensics White Paper, and are taking particular account of our commitment to respond to the recent European Court judgment relating to the retention of DNA profiles.

Hezbollah

Mrs. Ellman: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent assessment she has made of links between the political and military wings of Hezbollah. [268155]

Mr. Coaker: In July 2008, the military wing of Hezbollah, including the Jihad Council and all units reporting to it (including the Hezbollah External Security Organisation) was added to schedule 2 to the Terrorism Act 2000 (the proscribed list). Prior to that, only the External Security Organisation of Hezbollah was proscribed. The amendment to schedule 2 followed a thorough review of Hezbollah and the extent to which various parts of the organisation are concerned in terrorism. The review concluded that a distinction could be drawn between those parts of Hezbollah which are legitimately involved in Lebanese politics and those which are directly concerned in terrorism, and the new entry in schedule 2 to the Terrorism Act 2000 reflects that distinction.

Immigration Controls

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether an applicant from the UK applying for Tier 1 migrant status is required to demonstrate evidence of funds of £800 or more in each of the three months preceding the date of the application. [268225]

Mr. Woolas: Overseas nationals wishing to apply under the Tier one (General), Tier one (Post-study Work) and the Tier one (Entrepreneur) categories from within the UK are required to demonstrate evidence of funds of £800 or more in each of the three months preceding the date of the application.

Overseas nationals wishing to apply under the Tier one (Investor) category are not required to demonstrate maintenance funds, due to the significant level of investment they are required to make in the UK.

Metropolitan Police: Costs

Mr. Gordon Prentice: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what estimate she has made of the average cost to the Metropolitan Police of an unsuccessful attempt to arrest an individual subsequently found to be in custody in the last 12 months. [267577]

Mr. Coaker *[holding answer 27 March 2009]:* The information requested is not held centrally.

Police

Mr. Sharma: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent progress has been made on implementation of the policing pledge. [268018]

Mr. Coaker: All 43 police forces across England and Wales have now implemented the policing pledge. As part of the 'Justice Seen, Justice Done' programme, a nationwide drive has been launched to inform the public of the levels of service that the police have committed to providing in the pledge.

The Policing Green Paper explained the new relationship between the Government, police and public. The Home Office has now adopted a more strategic role allowing for grassroots accountability and an enhanced role for Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary (HMIC) in providing public assurance about the quality and standard of policing in all forces. The Home Office will not be directly assessing the performance of forces against the pledge; however HMIC will validate the delivery of the pledge through their inspection process. Police authorities will also wish to be satisfied that the pledge is being delivered for local people. Additionally, if the public do not feel the standards within the pledge are being met they can raise it locally with the police themselves or through their police authority.

Police: Bureaucracy

Mr. Sharma: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent steps she has taken to reduce police bureaucracy. [268020]

Mr. Coaker: It is vital that the police are able to deliver for the public in the most efficient way. This is why in the Policing Green Paper, published last year, the Home Office attached so much priority to cutting red tape and investing in technology. The Government's approach to bureaucracy is to reform processes to free up officer time, while also returning discretion to police officers and encouraging them to use their professional judgment.

Following a recommendation by Sir Ronnie Flanagan, the Home Office has supported a project to reduce the length of the crime recording form for use in the majority of incidents. A shortened crime recording process was piloted in four police forces areas in 2008, which allowed officers to exercise greater professional judgment in completing forms. PACE Code A has now been changed to remove the requirement of police officers to complete the stop and account form, while retaining the recording of the ethnicity of those stopped for monitoring reasons. The Government are also investing £80 million to deliver 30,000 new mobile data devices in to the hands of front-line officers by March 2010 to help them work more efficiently and to carry out many of these processes out on the street and not in the station.

The Home Office is also committed to reducing by up to 50 per cent. the amount of data it collects from police forces and has now removed the requirement for police officers to complete time-sheets for the purposes of activity based costing as well as removing or reducing the data it collected from police forces across a total of 36 data streams. Furthermore, the Home Office has taken steps to streamline its police performance management process, including the move to a single top-down target on public confidence.

Finally, the Home Office has appointed Jan Berry as the independent Reducing Bureaucracy Advocate to challenge Government and the police service to make further reductions to bureaucracy. Jan Berry has established a practitioner group comprising police officers and staff which is already scrutinising a number of police processes to identify where further reductions in bureaucracy can be achieved.

Police: Firearms

Damian Green: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much her Department spent on firearms training for *(a)* the police and *(b)* the UK Border Agency staff in 2008. [267446]

Mr. Alan Campbell: The Home Office spent no money on firearms training for the police or UK Border Agency staff in 2008. Police firearms training costs are met from within police force budgets. UKBA staff do not carry firearms.

Public Order Offences

Dr. Evan Harris: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what discussions she has had with the Secretary of State for Justice on the merits of *(a)* reducing the scope of the offence in section 5 of the Public Order Act 1986 in respect of insulting words or behaviour and *(b)* issuing guidance to (i) police forces and (ii) the Crown Prosecution Service on the handling of complaints relating to section 5 of the Public Order Act 1986. [267174]

Mr. Coaker: Following my appearance before the Joint Committee on Human Rights inquiry into policing and protest last December, I wrote to the ACPO lead on public order to seek her advice on the need for additional guidance to address the concerns that were raised by members of that Committee about section five of the Public Order Act.

There are potentially far reaching implications to any amendments to section five. In view of the Joint Committee on Human Right's recent recommendation to amend section five, we are considering the offence and will be responding to all the Committee's recommendations in due course.

Terrorism

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much *(a)* has been spent and *(b)* is planned to be spent on the installation of radiological detection systems at ports of entry to the UK, as referred to on page 15 of the United Kingdom's Strategy for Countering International Terrorism, Cm 7547; how many such systems have been installed; and how many remain to be installed. [268064]

Mr. Coaker: Programme Cyclamen provides both a fixed and mobile capability to detect, deter and intercept smuggled radiological material. At the end of March 2009, the cost of installing the detection equipment at ports across the UK was £76.7 million. The roll out of equipment is continuing and the planned cost of installing equipment is a further £85.6 million over the next two financial years. Due to the sensitivities around live operations, details about the numbers or locations of fixed detection equipment and mobile radiation detection units cannot be disclosed.

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what scientific research programmes are being carried out into chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear terrorist threats, as referred to at paragraph 0.61, page 15 of the United Kingdom's Strategy for Countering International Terrorism, Cm 7547; and at which institution each programme is being carried out. [268065]

Mr. Coaker: The Home Office leads a cross-Government science programme to address priority research requirements related to the potential use of chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear materials by terrorists. Elements of this work are classified. However, unclassified requirements in the areas of analytical techniques, protection, detection, medical countermeasures, hazard management, assessment and studies, and models have been published on the Home Office website. The current programme of work is being undertaken by around 45 research organisations in academia, industry and Government. For security reasons, we do not generally disclose the precise nature of the research nor the research body responsible.

Theft: Motor Vehicles

Mr. Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when she plans to publish the car theft indexes for *(a)* 2007 and *(b)* 2008. [263527]

Mr. Alan Campbell: The Home Office produced an annual edition of the car theft index from 2004 to 2006. It was last published in December 2006 was not produced in 2007 or 2008 and there are no plans to retrospectively publish car theft index reports for those years.

INNOVATION, UNIVERSITIES AND SKILLS

Apprentices

Stephen Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what estimate he has made of the average insurance cost to employers of taking on an apprentice. [261857]

Mr. Simon: I am not aware that there are any extra insurance costs to an employer of employing an apprentice above the normal costs of an employee. All employers must have employer liability insurance, the cost of which will depend on the nature of the industry.

Apprentices are employees and I would not expect their training status to lead to additional costs for employers.

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how many apprentices completing their training were still in a job relevant to the apprenticeship undertaken *(a)* 12 months and *(b)* 24 months after completion of the course in the latest period for which figures are available. [265347]

Mr. Simon: An apprenticeship is a work-based programme and apprentices must have a job or a work placement as a condition of completing their apprenticeship framework. Many will already be in permanent employment prior to the end of their apprenticeship.

Information on the immediate destinations of apprenticeships upon completion of their apprenticeship is not readily available. This type of information will in future be collected using the Framework for Excellence learner destination survey with the first results for all FE Colleges and Work based learning providers available in spring 2009. The survey will be conducted nine months after the end of the academic year and so will not relate exactly to 12 or 24 months after the completion of the apprenticeship. Also, the survey will not tell us whether these people are in a job relevant to their apprenticeship.

A recent research report has carried out a cost-benefit analysis of apprenticeships and other vocational qualifications. This report, including the main findings, can be found here:

http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/research/data/uploadfiles/RR834.pdf

The Government are committed to rebuilding apprenticeships. Since 1997 we have witnessed a renaissance in apprenticeships from a low point of 65,000 to a record 225,000 apprenticeship starts in 2007-08. Completion rates are also at a record high with 64 per cent. successfully completing an apprenticeship—up from 37 per cent. in 2004-05.

Apprentices: East Sussex

Mr. Waterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how many people resident in *(a)* Eastbourne and *(b)* East Sussex were on (i) apprenticeships and (ii) advanced apprenticeships in each of the last five years. [267271]

Mr. Simon: The table shows the number of apprenticeship and advanced apprenticeship starts in Eastbourne parliamentary constituency and East Sussex local authority from 2003/04 to 2007/08, the latest year for which fully-audited figures are available.

Number of apprenticeship and advanced apprenticeship starts in Eastbourne parliamentary constituency and East Sussex local authority, 2003/04 to 2007/08

	Area	*Apprenticeship starts*	*Advanced apprenticeship starts*	*Total starts*
2003/04	Eastbourne	240	80	330
	East Sussex	1,050	420	1,470
2004/05	Eastbourne	210	110	310
	East Sussex	1,030	500	1,530
2005/06	Eastbourne	230	100	330
	East Sussex	930	460	1,380
2006/07	Eastbourne	250	120	380
	East Sussex	970	460	1,430
2007/08	Eastbourne	270	180	450
	East Sussex	1,180	630	1,820

Notes:

1. Numbers are rounded to the nearest ten, and therefore may not sum to the total.

2. Figures for advanced apprenticeships include higher level apprenticeships (HLA) to be consistent with information published in statistical first releases. HLA numbers are currently too small to include as a separate category.

Source:

Individualised Learner Record

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Building Colleges for the Future Programme

Stephen Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills pursuant to the written ministerial statement of 4 March 2009, *Official Report*, column 55WS, on capital investment (further education colleges), whether *(a)* the effect on regeneration programmes and *(b)* co-funding from other organisations will be included in the criteria for allocating outstanding funds to college capital funding projects. [268530]

Mr. Simon: The Learning and Skills Council (LSC) have already begun discussing options for prioritisation with the FE sector already. Once the consultation is complete, the LSC will advise on options.

We would expect the consultation and subsequent advice to give due consideration to all potential prioritisation criteria, including whether the proposal impacts upon regeneration programmes, or has attracted co-funding from other organisations.

Stephen Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills pursuant to the written ministerial statement of 4 March 2009, *Official Report*, column 55WS, on capital investment (further education colleges), what capital funding he plans to make available to the *(a)* 79 colleges with approval in principle and *(b)* 65 colleges awaiting approval in principle for their building projects; and when such funds will be made available. [268531]

Mr. Simon: The Learning and Skills Council's (LSC) new acting chief executive has appointed an external team to review the current financial data held by the LSC and a team of property specialists to assist the LSC to ensure information held about individual projects is accurate and comprehensive and a sound basis for taking future decisions.

The LSC are working with the sector for prioritisation criteria for allocating any available funding. Announcements will be made once that work is completed.

Christmas

Mr. Rob Wilson: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills whether it is his Department's policy to offer staff *(a)* additional leave entitlement for Christmas shopping and *(b)* Christmas bonus payments. [262809]

Mr. Simon: The Department does not offer staff additional leave entitlement or bonus payments over Christmas.

Departmental Detergents

Annette Brooke: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills if he will make it his policy to ensure that no cleaning products or ingredients of cleaning products used by his Department have been tested on animals. [261124]

Mr. Simon: The Department's office cleaning services are provided through the Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform (BERR) and the Department for Children, Schools and Families (DCSF) which manage the buildings that DIUS occupies.

Both BERR and DCSF use JohnsonDiversey cleaning products. JohnsonDiversey are a member of the UK Cleaning Products Industry Association (UKCPI) whose position on animal testing is

> "the total elimination of animal testing, with progress towards that goal dependent on advances in scientific knowledge. Where animal testing remains necessary in order to establish safety of ingredients, it is kept to an absolute minimum to meet legal requirements".

BERR and DCSF will work with their cleaning suppliers to use products which avoid the use of animal testing wherever possible.

Departmental Publications

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what estimate he has made of the *(a)* production and printing and *(b)* other costs to his Department of producing its most recent (i) departmental annual report and (ii) autumn performance report. [266691]

Mr. Simon: The information requested is as follows:

(i) Costs for the Department's 2008 Annual Report are listed.

Exact costs (Incl. VAT)

Bell Design (creative concept; initial copywriting; typesetting and production incl. web-optimised pdf; photo library research and fees; studio materials and proofs; project management) £85,022.98 incl. VAT

COI (further copywriting; copy editing; handling amends and proof-reading) £10,186.08 incl. VAT

Stationery Office (print production and delivery of copies, incl. TSO management fee of £1,500) £9,686 incl. VAT

Total: £104,895.06

(ii) DIUS published its 2008 Autumn Performance Report on line. It was produced in-house in the normal course of business without extra production costs.

Departmental Training

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how much has been spent on media training for each Minister in his Department in each of the last three years; how many sessions have been provided; and who provided such training. [268310]

Mr. Simon: The Department provided one media training session in 2008 for a Minister at a cost of £1,276. No other media training for Ministers was arranged in the last three years. The session was run by a freelance trainer.

Economic Situation

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills pursuant to the answer of 25 March 2009, *Official Report*, columns 504-6W, on the economic situation, (1) what expenditure under what budgetary headings his Department incurred in relation to its local business seminar in Hoylake, Wirral on 8 January 2009; [268099]

(2) what expenditure under what budgetary headings his Department incurred in relation to *(a)* the DIUS group meeting and *(b)* the DIUS Family delivery partners drinks reception on 19 November 2008; [268100]

(3) what expenditure under what budgetary headings his Department incurred in relation to its seminar on small and medium enterprises on 26 November 2008; [268101]

(4) what expenditure under what budgetary headings his Department incurred in relation to its away day to discuss the DIUS response to the downturn on 27 January 2009; [268102]

(5) what expenditure under what budgetary headings his Department incurred in relation to its seminar on Staying Ahead, investing in science during the downturn on 19 February 2009. [268103]

Mr. Simon: Further to my answer of 25 March regarding the summits, conferences and seminars DIUS has hosted since January 2008, at which a primary subject for discussion was the impact of the economic situation on matters within DIUS' responsibility; the cost of these events, by category, is listed as follows.

PQ No.	*Event*	*Cost (£)*	*Cost category*
268099	Local businesses seminar Hoylake, Wirral - 8 January 2009	312.80 - incl. VAT	Driver's cost for the day - not only for attending this seminar
268100	DIUS Group meeting and DIUS Family (delivery partners) drinks reception -19 November 2008	3,899.35 - excl VAT	Venue, catering and delegate management
268101	Small and Medium Enterprise (SME) Panel - 26 November 2008	223.00 (VAT not applied)	Cost of travel of SMEs attending the panel
268102	DIUS Family (delivery partners) Awayday to discuss the DIUS response to the downturn.	38,557.29 - incl. VAT	Venue, catering and delegate management before during and after, including setting up an online registration, evaluation and discussion space
		4,000.00 - incl. VAT	Facilitators, including briefing, facilitating and reporting
268103	'Staying Ahead - investing in science during the downturn' -19 February 2009	3,400.00 - excl. VAT	Venue, catering and delegate management

Further Education: Borrowing

Stephen Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills for what reasons the restrictions on borrowing placed upon further education colleges and other providers of further and higher education vary; and if he will make a statement. [268604]

Mr. Simon: Borrowing restrictions in respect of Further Education (FE) colleges are set by the Learning and Skills Council (LSC) within its financial memorandum with colleges. The level of consent provided is up to 5 per cent. of a college's total annual income. Colleges are able to access higher levels of borrowing with the LSC's consent.

The borrowing restrictions in respect of higher education institutions (HEIs) are set by the Higher Education Funding Council for England (HEFCE) within its financial memorandum with HEIs. Under the terms of the memorandum, HEFCE permission is required where the annual costs of servicing the borrowing exceed 4 per cent. of the HEI's total annual income.

The difference in approach between FE colleges and HEIs reflects a number of factors, including the origin and diversity of the two sectors and the development of the relevant funding body's approach to financial management over time.

Borrowing restrictions for other providers of FE (which include companies, charities, local authorities etc) are determined by the legislation or governance requirements pertaining to that particular sector or institution.

Further Education: Capital Investment

Stephen Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills pursuant to the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State's contribution in the Westminster Hall debate on the Building Colleges for the Future programme on 25 March 2009, *Official Report*, column 121WH, to which hon. Members the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State has written inviting them to meet him to discuss the matters in detail. [267912]

Mr. Simon *[holding answer 31 March 2009]:* On the 16 January, I wrote to 105 Members—a list of which is as follows. The letter was targeted at those Members who had colleges in their constituencies that we were aware were affected by the position of the further education capital programme. The letter included an offer to meet with any Members who had concerns regarding further education colleges in their own constituencies.

Prior to the 4 March and the Learning and Skills Council national Council meeting, I had been in correspondence with 58 Members regarding the position of the further education capital programme. On the 6 March, following the national Council meeting, I wrote to each of the Members, updating them on the latest capital funding position, and again offering to meet with Members who had concerns regarding their own colleges.

A list of those 58 Members is also as follows.

Annex 1: List of MPs who received a letter from Siôn Simon MP regarding the further education capital position

16 January distribution list:

MPs

David Heyes
Eric Illsley
John Mann
Frank Field
Gordon Marsden
Dr. Brian Iddon
Mark Simmonds
Marsha Singh
Ann Keen
David Lepper
Eric Martlew
Martin Harwood
Andrew Tyrie
Christine Russell
Roberta Blackman-Woods
Bob Russell
Richard Ottaway
Alan Milburn
Michael Mates
Stephen O'Brien
Ben Bradshaw
Austin Mitchell
Sylvia Heal
Iain Wright
David Willetts
Andrew Stunell
John Howell
Mark Prisk
Peter Atkinson
Jonathan Djanogly
Andrew Turner
Philip Hollobone
Ben Wallace
Jane Kennedy
Ian McCartney
Alan Meale
Dr. Julian Lewis
Norman Lamb
Henry Bellingham
Sally Keeble
Charles Clarke
Alan Simpson
Dr. Evan Harris
Stewart Jackson
Mike Hancock
Mark Hendrick
Nigel Evans
Susan Kramer
Philip Hammond
Lorely Burt
Stephen Ladyman
Dr. John Pugh
Shaun Woodward
Ms Dari Taylor
Mark Fisher
Lynda Waltho
John Maples
Andrew Mitchell
Jeremy Browne
Mark Pritchard
Sir John Stanley
Adrian Sanders
Dr. Vincent Cable
David Clelland
Mary Creagh
Denis Murphy
John Spellar
David Heathcoat-Amory
Rosie Cooper
Tim Farron
Dr. Richard Taylor
Ian Cawsey
Nadine Dorries
Ian Gibson
Bob Spink
Ian Stewart

Graham Stringer
Desmond Turner
Rob Wilson
Derek Wyatt
Meg Munn
Dr. Hywel Francis
Judy Mallaber
Damian Green
Tim Loughton
Doug Henderson
Paul Holmes
Michael Foster
Khalid Mahmood
Angela C. Smith
Janet Dean
Joan Walley
Tim Boswell
Alistair Burt
Laurence Robertson
John Penrose
Annette Brooke
Dawn Butler
Douglas Carswell
John Heppell
Sharon Hodgson
Paul Holmes
Andy Slaughter
Edward Timpson
Graham Allen
Total: 105

6 March distribution list:

MPs

Tony Lloyd MP
Stephen Hepburn MP
Stephen Haughton MP
Shona McIsaac MP
Shahid Malik MP
Right hon. Jack Straw MP
Right hon. George Howarth MP
Right hon. Alan Johnson MP
Robert Key MP
Phil Hope MP
Paul Rowan MP
Mike Hall MP
Michael Foster MP
Michael Clapham MP
Mary Creagh MP
Mark Hoban MP
Jonathan Djanogly MP
John Mann MP
John Hayes MP
Jim Dobbin MP
Jeff Ennis MP
Janet Anderson MP
Ian Cawsey MP
Ian Austin MP
Gordon Marsden MP
Frank Dobson MP
Eric Illsley MP
Dr. Richard Taylor MP
Dr. Howard Stoate MP
Don Foster MP
Derek Twigg MP
Denis MacShane MP
Dawn Butler MP
David Wright MP
David Kidney MP
Dave Watts MP
Christine Russell MP
Celia Barlow MP
Ben Chapman MP
Ben Bradshaw MP
Barry Sheerman MP
Austin Mitchell MP
Anne Snelgrove MP
Alison Seabeck MP
Adrian Sanders MP
Right hon. John Hutton MP
Nick Harvey MP
Mark Field MP
Malcolm Moss MP
Eric Martlew MP
Eleanor Laing MP
David Borrow MP
Dari Taylor MP
Austin Mitchell MP
Dr. Tony Wright MP
Right hon. Andrew Smith MP
Joan Humble MP
Alan Keen MP
Total: 58

Further Education: Finance

Mr. Willis: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how much was allocated for the redevelopment of further education colleges in each constituency between 1999 and 2009. [261405]

Mr. Simon: Since 1997 more than £2 billion has been invested in modernising FE facilities and we will spend another £2.3 billion in the current spending review period.

Capital funding for further education colleges is administrated by the Learning and Skills Council (LSC). The LSC Acting Chief Executive, Mr. Geoff Russell will write to the hon. Member with the further information requested. A copy of his letter will be placed in the House Libraries.

Further Education: Overseas Students

Mr. Evennett: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what estimate he has made of the number of non-EU nationals who completed further education courses in England in the last five years. [261832]

Mr. Simon: The table shows the number of learners whose country of domicile is any one of the countries who are currently not members of the European Union (EU), achieving at least one qualification aim.

Number of non-EU learners achieving at least one qualification aim, 2003/04 to 2007/08

Academic year	*Number of learners achieving*
2003/04	38,000
2004/05	32,000
2005/06	28,000
2006/07	25,000
2007/08	25,000

Notes:
1. Numbers are rounded to the nearest thousand.
2. Numbers include FE and Ufl data only.
3. Data include both LSC funded and non-funded learners.
4. Non-EU learners are learners whose country of domicile is any of the countries who are not currently members of the European Union (EU).
5. This information is based on country of domicile—institutions are advised that the country of domicile should be treated as a self-assessment field and reflect the country where the learner was ordinarily resident for the three years preceding the start of their programme.

Source:
Individualised Learner Record (ILR)

Higher Education: Disadvantaged

Jeremy Corbyn: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what plans his Department has to encourage higher education institutions to admit students from non-traditional backgrounds; and what consideration he has given to the merits of changing the funding system so that universities do not perceive a financial risk by recruiting such students. [268614]

Mr. Lammy: This Government are fully committed to ensuring every young person has a fair chance of attending university. And we are making progress with the proportion of young entrants from lower socio economic groups going to university increasing steadily, reaching almost 30 per cent. in 2007.

But we should and can do more. As part of the New Opportunities White Paper, we announced further measures to ensure every young person from a low income background, who could benefit from going to university, is given the opportunity to do so. This includes a group of 11 research intensive universities working together to look at ways to reach out to talented students from disadvantaged backgrounds.

It is in no-one's interest for universities to recruit students who cannot benefit from higher education. The widening participation allocation is a contribution towards the additional costs of recruiting and retaining students from non-traditional backgrounds. The amount set aside for the allocation, and the funding method by which each institution's allocation is calculated, are matters for the Higher Education Funding Council for England (HEFCE).

Higher Education: Finance

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what contribution the Government has made to the Access to Learning Fund in each of the last three years. [267122]

Mr. Lammy: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave on 4 February 2009, *Official Report*, column 1306W, to the hon. Member for Brecon and Radnorshire (Mr. Williams).

Jeremy Corbyn: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what recent estimate he has made of the number of higher education institutions that will be required to repay funds to the Higher Education and Funding Council for England resulting from overpayments based on the mis-reporting of student completion rates. [268620]

Mr. Lammy: Almost all of HEFCE's recurrent funding for institutions are allocated by formula and informed by data that higher and further education institutions provide on their student numbers and measures of research activity. HEFCE's rules about only counting the activity that students complete in its funding allocations are clear. Where it is found, either through reconciliations with other data or any data audit, that erroneous data has resulted in institutions receiving incorrect funding allocations, then HEFCE adjust their funding accordingly (subject, where appropriate, to an appeals process).

As with any other public sector body, HEFCE's audits are a routine way of ensuring accountability for, and the proper use of, public funds. HEFCE carries out student data audits of the universities and colleges it funds over a five-year cycle. In 2008 it audited 26 HEIs relating to their 2007-08 HESES data. Where it finds that institutions have over-claimed funding, HEFCE has a duty to recover it. So far, these data audits have resulted in confirmed funding adjustments to funding for four institutions, as a result of incorrect reporting of non-completions.

Jeremy Corbyn: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what recent assessment he has made of the suitability of the funding process for universities which are involved in initiatives to widen participation in higher education. [268621]

Mr. Lammy: The Higher Education Funding Council for England assists universities with the additional costs of recruiting students from non-traditional backgrounds. The funding is calculated in such a way as to reflect the students from non-traditional backgrounds that an institution has already recruited. It is paid to institutions as part of their teaching and learning budget, and it is not ring-fenced for any specific activities.

An assessment of its effectiveness is a matter for the Funding Council, however, a 2006 assessment made by the Funding Council found that evidence for the impact of the allocation on institutional behaviour was strong, and that there was persuasive evidence of the effectiveness of specific institutional interventions.

The first Widening Participation Strategic Assessments (WPSAs) will be submitted by higher education institutions to the Funding Council by the end of June. The assessment will contain detailed information about the university's progress in widening participation through information about: the full range of the institution's widening participation activity at an appropriately aggregated level; the detailed targets and milestones set by the university; and the level of resource committed to widening participation, including, but not limited to, the Funding Council's widening participation allocation and the spending on outreach and bursaries covered by access agreements. Universities also receive funding through the Aimhigher initiative.

Evaluation of predecessor programmes shows that they have a significant impact on the aspirations of young people towards university, and their pre-entry attainment levels.

London Metropolitan University

Jeremy Corbyn: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how many people from Islington North constituency are enrolled on a course at London Metropolitan University. [268618]

Mr. Lammy: Latest figures from the Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA) show that 675 people from Islington North parliamentary constituency enrolled on a course at London Metropolitan University in the 2007-08 academic year[1]. This figure covers enrolments to all levels and modes of study.

Figures for the 2008-09 academic year will be available in January 2010.

[1] Enrolments refer to the total number of students at the university, rather than that year's entrants.

Jeremy Corbyn: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what recent assessment he has made of the financial situation at London Metropolitan University. [268619]

Mr. Lammy: The Higher Education Funding Council for England (HEFCE) is responsible for monitoring the financial health of those higher education institutions it funds through an accountability framework. This framework includes an annual process which assesses the financial health and risks facing all institutions. At the same time, HEFCE undertakes data audit work which at London Metropolitan University has found that £36.5 million of funding was incorrectly claimed over a three year period. All of this money is being repaid by the university over an agreed five year repayment period.

Nuclear Engineering: Higher Education

Greg Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills pursuant to the Answer of 10 February 2009, *Official Report*, column 1902W, on engineering: higher education, how many *(a)* masters level students and *(b)* doctoral students received funding for nuclear engineering courses in each of the last five years. [267001]

Mr. Lammy: Data at the level of detail requested by this question are not collected centrally. The following table sets out the overall numbers of chemical, process and energy engineering students at English higher education institutions over the last five years which would include nuclear engineering students.

Academic year	*Masters*	*Doctorates*
2003/04	935	605
2004/05	865	645
2005/06	870	630
2006/07	920	665
2007/08	725	865

Notes:

1. Figures are based on a HESA standard registration population and have been rounded to the nearest five.
2. Covers enrolments of all domiciles to both full-time and part-time courses.
3. Excludes the Open University due to inconsistencies in their coding of subject over the time series.

Source:

Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA)

Science: Research

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what assessment he has made of the adequacy of levels of research funding for science subjects in *(a)* Russell Group universities and *(b)* other universities in 2009-10; and if he will make a statement. [268355]

Mr. Lammy: Government funding for research in science and other subjects is now at record levels, with DIUS funding set to reach almost £6 billion by 2010/11. Research funding for universities is allocated on the basis of excellence—through the RAE in the case of the HEFCE Quality Related (QR) block grant, and through peer review of projects in the case of Research Councils. In relation to the recent HEFCE block grant allocation, HEFCE have safeguarded the proportion of funding going to Science Technology Engineering and Maths (STEM) subjects.

Students: Loans

Mr. Holloway: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how much was refunded to account holders by the Student Loans Company in respect of overpayments made at the end of the loan period in each financial year for which figures are available. [267867]

Mr. Lammy: As there is a time lag between student loan deductions being made and the Student Loan Company (SLC) receiving information from Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs (HMRC), it is possible for people to overpay before the SLC becomes aware that their repayments should stop. Because of this, borrowers are advised to monitor their own repayments so they know when they are likely to come to the end of repaying their loan. If they do not, they could overpay.

The information requested is set out in the following table; the figures relate to income contingent student loans.

Financial year	*£*
1998-99	11
1999-2000	5,312
2000-01	17,976
2001-02	130,141
2002-03	553,580
2003-04	2,047,526
2004-05	5,321,628
2005-06	8,266,570
2006-07	9,669,298
2007-08	15,290,287
Total refunded	41,302,329

The SLC is exploring a number of measures to help customers avoid overpayment, including giving them the option to make final repayments outside the tax system, via direct debit, to ensure they do not overpay. The SLC has also introduced new guidance and tools, including an on-line calculator, to help customers work out their loan balance, and therefore when they are likely to repay their loan in full.

Training: Defence

Mark Pritchard: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills if he will meet the Secretary of State for Defence to discuss potential European funding for the Defence Training Review project. [263934]

Mr. Simon: The Defence Training Review project is being led by the Ministry of Defence who have published the anticipated timeline till 2015 on their website:

http://www.mod.uk/DefenceInternet/AboutDefence/WhatWeDo/TrainingandExercises/DTR

Questions surrounding the funding of this project should be directed to my right. hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Defence. We will of course consider any request from him for a meeting to discuss any role for the Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills with respect to the Defence Training Review project.

Vocational Training

Justine Greening: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for West Chelmsford of 17 March 2009, *Official Report*, columns 10-12W, on vocational training, how many businesses in *(a)* each region and *(b)* each London borough have signed the Skills Pledge. [266578]

Mr. Simon: The Skills Pledge is a voluntary, public commitment by employers to support their employees to develop their basic skills, including literacy and numeracy, and work towards relevant, valuable qualifications to at least Level 2 (equivalent to five good GCSEs).

Since the launch of the Skills Pledge in June 2007 we have made excellent progress. The table, taken from the latest available figures, January 2009, show the number of organisations that have made the Skills Pledge in each region. Please note that these figures include both public and private organisations.

Skills Pledge information is not identifiable by London borough.

Number of organisations to have made the Skills Pledge in each region

Geographical region	*Number of pledges*
East Midlands	1,281
East of England	829
London	2,594
North East	157
North West	1,849
South East	1,735
South West	868
West Midlands	2,206
Yorks and Humberside	1,272
Total	12,791

CHILDREN, SCHOOLS AND FAMILIES

Children in Care

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many mothers have more than *(a)* one, *(b)* five, *(c)* 10 and *(d)* 15 children in care. [268598]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: This information is not collected centrally by the Department.

Children: Autism

Mr. Marsden: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what guidance his Department issues to local authorities on the provision of training for the staff of children's services in respect of autism. [268160]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The then Department for Education and Skills and the Department for Health published "Good Practice Guidance" on autistic spectrum disorders (ASDs) in 2002 for providers of services to children with autism, including local authorities. The guidance advised that all those who plan or provide for children should have some knowledge and understanding of autism and gave pointers to good practice on the provision of in-service training:

www.teachernet.gov.uk/wholeschool/sen/asds/asdgoodpractice/

The Department, with the National Strategies, is publishing in-service training DVDs and booklets on "Supporting children on the autism spectrum" for schools and early years settings and distributing these via local authorities:

www.standards.dcsf.gov.uk/nationalstrategies

Links to other sources of support are included, such as training courses in autism and the West Midlands "autism spectrum disorders: training policy and framework" which is for use in planning and training for those in education, social care, health and the independent and voluntary sectors.

Children: Databases

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families which companies other than Capgemini bid for his Department's ContactPoint contract. [264171]

Beverley Hughes: The Department used an existing EU compliant Framework Agreement between the Department and Capgemini UK plc for the design, and subsequently, the build, test, hosting and support of ContactPoint.

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families whether there are circumstances in which a person's ContactPoint data might be retained on ContactPoint for longer than six years after their 18th birthday. [267310]

Beverley Hughes: Local authorities, or the Secretary of State, may decide that a record can be retained in the archive for longer than six years if it is necessary to support an ongoing investigation under section 47 of the Children Act 1989, which relates to a child who may be suffering or is at risk of suffering significant harm, or a Local Safeguarding Children's Board serious case review or investigation into a child's death.

Children: Day Care

Mrs. Maria Miller: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many full day care settings closed in each quarter of the last year. [268636]

Beverley Hughes: The latest available information on full day care settings for a full quarter was published in Ofsted's June 2008 report "Registered Childcare Providers and Places". The information requested is reproduced in the following table:

Number and percentage of full day care settings that have opened and closed[1]—Position as at each quarter, England

	Full Day Care	
	Number	Rate per 100 settings[2]
January to March 2008		
Opened	550	3.9
Closed	420	2.9
April to June 2008		
Opened	520	3.6
Closed	370	2.6

[1] Figures are rounded to the nearest 10 if under 100, and to the nearest 100 if over 100.

[2] Rates are calculated by multiplying the number of openings/closures in each quarter by 100, and dividing this value by the stock at the beginning of each quarter.

Source:
Ofsted.

Children: Disabled

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families which organisations have been allocated funding through the Aiming High for Disabled Children programme. [268032]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The Department for Children, Schools and Families has offered grants to, or is contracted with, the following organisations through the Aiming High for Disabled Children programme:

All English local authorities
147 parent groups throughout England
Together for Disabled Children
Council for Disabled Children
The National Strategies
Department of Health Business Services Authority
Shared Care Network
Kids

Children: Maintenance

Mr. Gray: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how much was paid by absent fathers for maintenance via the child support system in each of the last three years; and what the total unpaid liability for maintenance was in each of those years. [264201]

Kitty Ussher: I have been asked to reply.

The Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission is responsible for the child maintenance system. I have therefore asked the Child Maintenance Commissioner to write to the hon. Member with the information requested.

Letter from Stephen Geraghty:

Your recent Parliamentary Question to the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families about child maintenance was transferred to the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions as the child maintenance system falls within his remit. Responsibility for the delivery of the statutory child maintenance schemes is the responsibility of the Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission and a substantive reply from the Child Maintenance Commissioner was promised.

You asked how much was paid by absent fathers for maintenance via the child support system; and what the total unpaid liability for maintenance was in each of those years. [264201]

We contacted your office and clarified that you were asking for information from each of the last five years. It should be noted that child maintenance is collected from non-resident parents, around 95 per cent. of whom are male, and 5 per cent. female. Information on the amount of maintenance collected from either fathers or mothers is not available.

Information relating to the amount of child maintenance collected and arranged is routinely published in Table 19.5 of the Child Support Agency's Quarterly Summary of Statistics. This is available in the House of Commons library, or via the internet at:

http://www.childmaintenance.org/publications/statistics.html.

This information for the last five calendar years, as well as an estimate of the total annual child maintenance liability, is set out in the attached table.

I hope you find this answer helpful.

Child Support Agency—Total maintenance collected and arranged 2004-08

	Total collected and arranged[1] (£ million)	Estimated annual maintenance liability[2] (£ million)	Total maintenance as percentage of regular liability[3]
2004	790	1,206	66
2005	829	1,250	66
2006	880	1,297	68
2007	975	1,314	74
2008	1,112	1,353	82

[1] The amount of arrears of maintenance collected within each year may include arrears accrued in previous years.

[2] The estimate is of child maintenance becoming due in that year.

[3] Total maintenance as a percentage of regular liability is calculated by dividing the child maintenance liability over the year by the total child maintenance collected and arranged by the agency over the same period.

Notes:

1. Information relating to the amount of child maintenance collected and arranged is routinely published in Table 19.5 of the Child Support Agency's Quarterly Summary of Statistics. This is available online at: http://www.childmaintenance.org/publications/statistics. html.
2. Figures shown relate to each of the last five calendar years.

Children: Protection

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many cases investigated by independent reviewing officers have been referred to the Children and Family Court Advisory and Support Service in the past five years. [266597]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The Children and Family Court Advisory and Support Service (CAFCASS) have had three formal referrals from independent reviewing officers (IROs) in the last five years.

Informally, CAFCASS have received 65 requests for support from IROs in the year 2007-08, and some 52 requests in 2008-09. CAFCASS lawyers have provided guidance and assistance in response to these requests.

Children: Social Services

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) whether the cross-government national safeguarding delivery unit will have powers to intervene in children's services departments in local authorities; [266324]

(2) when he plans to announce which experts from *(a)* central Government, *(b)* local agencies and *(c)* the voluntary sector will staff the cross-government national safeguarding delivery unit. [266347]

Beverley Hughes: I refer the hon. Member to the reply given on 27 March 2009, *Official Report*, column 798W.

Children's Centres: Tamworth

Mr. Jenkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how much his Department has spent on funding Sure Start centres in Tamworth constituency since 1997. [267975]

Beverley Hughes: Information on Sure Start spending is collected at a local authority level. Staffordshire local authority is responsible for the Sure Start centres in the Tamworth constituency.

The first Sure Start Local programmes were set up in 1999-2000. Data for revenue spend for years prior to 2003-04 are not readily available at local authority level.

The delivery of first phase Children's Centres began in 2003-04.

The combined Sure Start Local programme and children's centres revenue spend is shown in table A.

Table A

	SSLP and children's centres revenue spend 2003-04 to 2007-08 for Staffordshire local authority
2003-04	3,420,406
2004-05	3,459,755
2005-06	4,213,454
2006-07	5,990,872
2007-08	6,975,081
Total	24,059,568

The combined Sure Start Local programme and children's centres capital spend from 1999-2000 to 2007-08 is £10,449,472.

The Sure Start Local programmes received a single allocation for capital. This has meant that it is not possible to accurately track the year by year spend for SSLP capital. Staffordshire's capital spend for Sure Start Local programmes from programme inception to 2005-06 was £5,173,204.

Staffordshire's children's centres capital spend from 2003-04 to 2007-08 is given in table B.

Table B

	Staffordshire children's centres capital spend 2003-04 to 2007-08
2003-04	0
2004-05	0
2005-06	2,155,362
2006-07	480,138
2007-08	2,640,768
Total	5,276,268

Delivery of National Curriculum Tests in 2008 Inquiry

Mr. Gibb: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families when the inquiry into the findings of the Sutherland Report undertaken by the board of the Qualifications and Curriculum Authority will be completed. [267670]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: Lord Sutherland published his report on the 2008 National Curriculum Test delivery problems on 16 December last year. On the same day, the QCA Board suspended on full pay Dr. Ken Boston, its chief executive, and David Gee, the managing director of the National Assessment Agency, while the board fully considered their position.

On 2 February, the Secretary of State published in the House the Department's response to Lord Sutherland's report, together with the report of 16 January from the Chairman of the Qualifications and Curriculum Authority (QCA), setting out QCA's progress in implementing Lord Sutherland's recommendations.

On 1 April, following an internal inquiry, the QCA Board announced that it had accepted both Dr. Ken Boston's and David Gee's resignations, with the agreement that they are effective immediately. The QCA's statements can be found in full on the QCA website at:

www.qca.org.uk

Departmental Buildings

Dr. Pugh: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what buildings are owned or operated by his Department under a private finance initiative (PFI) arrangement; and which companies are involved with each such PFI arrangement. [267416]

Jim Knight: The Department does not own or operate any buildings under a private finance initiative (PFI).

Departmental Detergents

Annette Brooke: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families if he will make it his policy to ensure that no cleaning products or ingredients of cleaning products used by his Department have been tested on animals. [261133]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The Department for Children, Schools and Families office cleaning service is provided by an external supplier, Mitie Cleaning who use JohnsonDiversey cleaning products. JohnsonDiversey are a member of the UK Cleaning Products Industry Association (UKCPI) whose position on animal testing is

> "the total elimination of animal testing, with progress towards that goal dependent on advances in scientific knowledge. Where animal testing remains necessary in order to establish safety of ingredients, it is kept to an absolute minimum to meet legal requirements".

The Department will work with our cleaning supplier to use wherever possible products that avoids the use of animal testing.

Departmental Empty Property

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what estimate he has made of the change in the annual cost to his Department of maintaining the empty public buildings owned by his Department as a result of the April 2008 changes to empty property rate relief. [267138]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: For the financial year 2008-09 the Department paid £48,007 business rates on vacant properties.

Departmental Energy

Greg Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how much *(a)* electricity, *(b)* gas and *(c)* other fuel has been used by his Department since its inception. [267341]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The Department for Children, Schools and Families was created on 28 June 2007 and from its creation the total amount of electricity, gas and other fuel used in the Department's buildings is as follows:

Fuel	*Kwh*
Electricity	24,691,220
Gas	9,235,289
Steam	4,444,130

The Department shares its buildings with other bodies and their usage is included in the above totals.

Departmental Lost Property

John Mason: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what property has been lost or stolen from his Department in the last 12 months; and what the estimated cost was of replacement of such property. [263117]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: A breakdown of reported lost or stolen property from the Department for Children, Schools and Families in the last 12 month period March 2008 to February 2009 is detailed as follows.

Item	*Lost*	*Stolen*	*Total*	*Total estimated cost of replacement (£)*
Laptops	2	4	6	5,600.00
Blackberry/mobile	12	5	17	2,210.00
Memory stick	2	—	2	29.92
Projector	—	1	1	500.00
Spider phone	—	1	1	400.00
Staff Passes	120	17	137	319.63
Total	136	28	164	9,059.55

Paul Holmes: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what the cost of replacing lost or stolen property from his Department was in the last 12 months. [268038]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The total expenditure for replacing lost or stolen property from the Department for Children, Schools and Families in the last 12 month period March 2008 to February 2009 is £9,059.55.

Departmental Press

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how much his Department has spent on newspapers, magazines and periodicals in each year since its inception. [261263]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: Newspaper, magazine and periodical purchases are recorded under the general heading of "Books and Newspapers".

Details of expenditure on books, newspapers, magazines and periodicals incurred by the Department for Children, Schools and Families since its inception are as follows:

	£
2007-08	129,159
2008-09	124,400

Departmental Public Consultation

Mr. Vara: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many public consultations his Department has conducted in the last 12 months; how long each consultation was open for; how many responses were received in each case; and what the cost of conducting each consultation was. [259174]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: In the last 12 months the Department has conducted 38 public consultations. The title of, length of, and the number of responses to, each consultation can be found in the table.

The costs associated with each consultation can be obtained only at disproportionate cost as spend on consultations will include not only staffing costs but also potentially printing and distribution costs, web site design, venue hire, professional facilitators etc.

Consultation name	*Responses*	*From*	*To*
The Role of Further Education Providers in Promoting Community Cohesion, Fostering Shared Values and Preventing Violent Extremism	29	11 February 2008	6 May 2008
Guidance on Child Trust Fund Top Ups for Looked After Children	11	20 February 2008	2 April 2008
Guidance on Personal Education Allowances for Looked After Children	43	20 February 2008	2 April 2008
Independent Review of the Primary Curriculum—Call for Evidence	509	26 February 2008	30 April 2008
Raising Expectations: enabling the system to deliver (Joint DCSF/DIUS consultation)	443	17 March 2008	9 June 2008
Consultation on Draft School Admissions (Alteration and Variation of, and Objections to, Arrangements) (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2008	116	17 March 2008	28 April 2008

Consultation name	*Responses*	*From*	*To*
Review of Mathematics Teaching in Early Years Settings and Primary Schools: Interim Report	97	19 March 2008	30 April 2008
Consultation on Draft Education (Special Educational Needs Coordinators) (England) Regulations 2008	434	25 March 2008	17 June 2008
Promoting achievement, valuing success: a strategy for 14-19 qualifications	173	31 March 2008	23 June 2008
Fair Play: A consultation on the play strategy: A commitment in The Children's Plan	234	3 April 2008	18 July 2008
Statutory Guidance for Children's Trusts on the Duty to Cooperate	87	3 April 2008	26 June 2008
Assessing the Impact of the Commercial World on Children's Wellbeing—A Call for Evidence (Interested parties version)	14	7 April 2008	30 June 2008
Assessing the Impact of the Commercial World on Children's Wellbeing—A Call for Evidence (Parents version)	35	7 April 2008	13 July 2008
Assessing the Impact of the Commercial World on Children's Wellbeing—A Call for Evidence (Children and Young People's version)	29	7 April 2008	13 July 2008
The Management of Building Schools for the Future waves 7 to 15	145	9 April 2008	4 July 2008
The CAMHS Review—Next Steps to Improving the Emotional Well-Being and Mental Health of Children and Young People. Call for Evidence	373	14 April 2008	7 July 2008
Consultation on proposals relating to the commencement of section 37 of the Education and Inspections Act 2006—staffing at foundation and voluntary schools with a religious character	16	2 May 2008	11 July 2008
Consultation on introducing provisional registration with the General Teaching Council for England (GTCE) for trainee teachers, unqualified teachers and instructors	42	2 May 2008	27 June 2008
Fair Play—have your say	9,409	20 May 2008	18 August 2008
Youth Alcohol Action Plan	156	2 June 2008	7 July 2008
Children and Adoption Act 2006—Children Act 1989 Contact Activity Directions and Conditions (Financial Assistance) (England) Regulations 2008	17	4 June 2008	8 August 2008
School Admissions Consultation 2008	635	12 June 2008	2 October 2008
Schools' Role in Promoting Pupil Well-being—Draft Guidance for Consultation	143	3 July 2008	25 September 2008
Proposals for Revisions To Legislation For Schools Causing Concern	27	3 July 2008	25 September 2008
Delivering the Children's Plan—Strengthening Children's Trusts: legislative options	145	3 July 2008	25 September 2008
Zero Carbon School Buildings	106	10 July 2008	6 October 2008
Draft Apprenticeships Bill	70	17 July 2008	8 October 2008
Safeguarding Children and Young People from Sexual Exploitation	85	18 July 2008	10 October 2008
Revised Statutory Guidance for local authorities in England to identify children not receiving a suitable education	1,086	7 August 2008	24 October 2008
Local Authority Performance Targets for Under Achieving Pupil Groups	54	26 August 2008	6 October 2008
Legislating for Sure Start Children's Centres	348	11 September 2008	6 November 2008
The Education (Independent School Standards) (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2008	17	26 September 2008	7 November 2008
A New Way Of Handling Parents' Complaints About School Issues	231	26 September 2008	21 November 2008
Consultation on Amendments to the General Teaching Council for England (GTCE) Disciplinary Functions Regulations	22	3 November 2008	28 November 2008
School Admissions Consultation 2008—Limited Extension	1,340	4 November 2008	15 November 2008
Statutory Guidance: The Roles and Responsibilities of the Lead Member for Children's Services and the Director of Children's Services	56	18 November 2008	10 February 2009
Independent Review Mechanism (Fostering)	48	25 November 2008	24 December 2008
Home Education—Your Views	2,093	19 January 2009	20 February 2009

Departmental Training

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many *(a)* staff and *(b)* Ministerial away days have been organised by his Department and its predecessor in each of the last five years; and what the cost of such events was in each year. [266211]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: Information on away days for staff is not held centrally and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost. However, the organisation of meetings outside the Department's buildings will be based on sound planning and, where accommodation costs and other charges are involved, our policies on appropriateness and value for money.

Information on the number of away days organised for Ministers in each of the last five years are set out as follows.

Year[1]	*Number*
2004-05	1
2005-06	1
2006-07	3
2007-08	1
2008-09	2

[1] Assumes financial, not calendar years.

The Department's accounting records do not collate information to the level of detail requested on event costs and a response could be obtained only at disproportionate cost. All expenditure, however, has to be incurred in accordance with the principles of 'Managing Public Money' and the Treasury handbook on 'Regularity and Propriety'.

Departmental Translation Services

Damian Green: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how much his Department spent on translation services in each area of allocation in 2008. [267448]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: Our records show that this Department spent £11,157 on translation services in 2008.

GCSE: Disadvantaged

Ms Buck: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many and what proportion of children in areas of each decile of multiple deprivation of *(a)* pupil residence and *(b)* local authority did not gain any GCSEs in the latest period for which figures are available. [267428]

Jim Knight: The Department routinely publishes information about pupil attainment linked to the Income Deprivation Affecting Children Index (IDACI). The requested information linked to IDACI is provided in the following table:

Number and percentage of pupils at the end of Key Stage 4 not achieving any passes at GCSE and equivalents in 2008 by IDACI decile of pupil residence and school location

	Pupil residence[2]		School location[3]	
IDACI decile[1]	*Number of pupils not achieving any passes*	*Percentage not achieving any passes*	*Number of pupils not achieving any passes*	*Percentage not achieving any passes*
0-10% most deprived	2,527	3.7	1,260	2.8
10-20%	1,963	3.0	1,155	2.5
20-30%	1,422	2.3	1,278	2.0
30-40%	1,132	1.9	1,211	2.0
40-50%	874	1.5	1,070	1.5
50-60%	733	1.3	858	1.5
60-70%	592	1.0	970	1.4
70-80%	485	0.9	808	1.3
80-90%	447	0.8	823	1.3
90-100% least deprived	351	0.6	734	1.2
Total	[4]10,662	1.8	10,167	1.7

[1] Income Deprivation Affecting Children Index 2007.
[2] Pupil residence data is provisional 2008.
[3] School location data is revised 2008.
[4] Includes pupils of unknown residence. *Source:* Secondary Achievement and Attainment Tables and National Pupil Database.

Guardianship: Lancashire

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many children in Lancashire have a special guardianship order; and how many of those orders include financial assistance from Lancashire county council. [267654]

Beverley Hughes: Information on the number of looked after children who have a special guardianship order broken down by local authority can be found in Table LAD6.

Table LAD6 is taken from the Statistical First Release entitled "Children looked after in England (including adoption and care leavers) year ending 31 March 2008", which is located at

http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000810/index.shtml

and can be found within the first set of additional tables.

Information on how many of these special guardianship orders include financial assistance from Lancashire county council is not collected centrally by the Department.

Home Education

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many and what percentage of *(a)* girls and *(b)* boys are receiving home schooling in each local authority area, broken down by ethnic group. [268488]

Jim Knight: The information requested is not collected centrally.

Ofsted: Complaints

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how much Ofsted spent on responding to complaints from *(a)* schools and *(b)* other education providers in the last four years for which figures are available. [266104]

Jim Knight: This is a matter for Ofsted. HM Chief Inspector, Christine Gilbert, has written to the hon. Member and a copy of her reply has been placed in the House Libraries.

Letter from Christine Gilbert, dated 30 March 2009:

Your recent parliamentary question has been passed to me, as Her Majesty's Chief Inspector, for a response.

Ofsted inspects education and training for learners of all ages. The total cost of Ofsted's regional and central complaints teams covering the providers listed in the question and including an independent adjudication service, is approximately £443,000 per year (at 2008-09 prices).

This includes (a) £416,000 on complaints relating to our inspection remit for state maintained schools, some independent schools, pupil referral units, and initial teacher education; and (b) £27,000 on complaints relating to our inspection remit for further education colleges and other providers of publicly funded adult education and work-based learning.

This does not include the costs of inspectors and managers investigating individual complaints as part of their daily workload. These data are not collected as a matter of course, and could only be obtained at a disproportionate cost. Please note that Ofsted's financial records do not include this level of detail for earlier years, but the costs will have been broadly similar.

Since the formation of the new Ofsted in April 2007, Ofsted has reviewed our complaints handling structure and processes and expects to reduce these costs significantly from September 2009.

A copy of this reply has been sent to the Rt Hon Jim Knight MP, Minister of State for Schools and Learners and will be placed in the library of both Houses.

Pre-school Education: Tamworth

Mr. Jenkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many childcare places there were in Tamworth constituency in *(a)* 1997 and *(b)* 2008. [268005]

Beverley Hughes: The information requested is not available by parliamentary constituency. The tables show the number of child care places in Staffordshire local authority for 1997 and 2008.

Table 1: Number[1,2,3] of day care places for children under eight years of age by type of provider Staffordshire local authority area—position at 31 March 1997

Type of provider	*1997*
Day nurseries	4,900
Playgroups and pre-schools	7,800
Child minders	7,700
Out of school clubs	1,300
Holiday schemes	4,000
Total	25,700

[1] Figures have been rounded to the nearest 10 if under 100, and to the nearest 100 if over 100.

[2] Data source—Children's Day Care Facilities Survey.

[3] Figures may not add up to total due to rounding

Table 2: Number[1,2,3] of registered child care places for children under eight years of age by type of care Staffordshire local authority area—position at 31 March 2008

Type of care	*2008*
Full day care	11,400
Sessional day care	3,300
Child minders	4,500
Out of school day care	7,900
Crèche day care	600
Total	27,700

[1] Figures have been rounded to the nearest 10 if under 100, and to the nearest 100 if over 100.

[2] Data source—Ofsted

[3] Figures may not add up to total due to rounding

Since 2003 Ofsted has been responsible for the registration and inspection of child care providers. Ofsted have produced figures on the numbers of registered child care providers and places on a quarterly basis from March 2003. Figures at 31 March 2008 were published in their report "Registered Childcare Providers and Places, March 2008", which is available on their website.

www.Ofsted.gov.uk/

Primary Schools: Closures

Mr. Waterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many primary schools in *(a)* Eastbourne and *(b)* East Sussex closed permanently in each year since 1990. [267249]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: Decisions about school closures are taken under local decision-making arrangements which were introduced in September 1999. Information about decisions made under the arrangements that operated prior to September 1999 is not reliable and is not, therefore, included. The Department's data is recorded at local authority level and for the period from September 1999 there have been no primary school closures in East Sussex where the provision has ceased to be maintained and has not been replaced.

Pupils: Disadvantaged

Mr. Gray: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many and what proportion of children received free school meals in the last 12 months; and what proportion of children were entitled to free school meals in the last 12 months. [267214]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The available information relates to January 2008 and is shown in the table:

Nursery and primary schools[1], secondary schools[2] and special schools[3]: School meal arrangements[4], January 2008 (final): Coverage: England

	Number on roll	*Pupils taking free school meals[5]*	*Percentage taking free school meals*	*Number known to be eligible for free meals*	*Percentage known to be eligible for free meals*
Nursery Primary schools	4,127,840	538,460	13.0	641,490	15.5
Secondary schools	3,294,580	326,480	9.9	433,140	13.1
Special schools	90,690	24,520	27.0	28,680	31.6

[1] Includes middle schools as deemed.

[2] Includes CTCs and academies

[3] Includes maintained and non-maintained special schools, excludes general hospital schools.

[4] Includes dually registered pupils and boarding pupils.

[5] The number of pupils recorded as taking a free meal on the census date in January.

Figures have been rounded to the nearest 10. There may be discrepancies between totals and constituent parts.

Source:

School Census

The information has been taken from SFR 09/2008: Pupil Characteristics and Class Sizes in Maintained Schools in England: January 2008 which can be found at:

http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000786/index.shtml

Ms Buck: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what estimate he has made of the change in his Department's deprivation expenditure relating to schools in *(a)* 1999-2000, *(b)* 2000-01, *(c)* 2001-02 and *(d)* 2002-03. [267429]

Jim Knight: Local authorities fund their schools by means of their own formulae to meet the priorities of their schools and pupils. The requirement to have a specific factor in the formula relating to deprivation was not introduced until the financial year 2002-03. Therefore there are no figures for planned changes in deprivation expenditure for the years specified.

The needs assessment for each local authority prior to the introduction of Dedicated Schools Grant in 2006-07 contained indicators related to deprivation but was provided for all defined responsibilities of local authorities and schools. It is not possible to identify actual expenditure on deprivation as schools' expenditure is reported in terms of salaries, resource costs and premises costs for the school covering all pupils including those that are deprived. The returns do not identify expenditure on particular pupils or types of pupil.

Pupils: Health

Annette Brooke: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what estimate his Department has made of the number of children in maintained schools diagnosed with *(a)* dyslexia, *(b)* dyscalculia, *(c)* dyspraxia, *(d)* dysgraphia, *(e)* Asperger's syndrome, *(f)* attention deficit disorder, *(g)* attention deficit and hyperactivity disorder, *(h)* Meares-Irlen syndrome and (i) epilepsy. [267741]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The Department's most recent data on children identified with special educational needs (SEN) appear in Statistical First Release 15/2008, published on 25 June 2008. Table 9 provides data on types of need for children at the School Action Plus stage of SEN support and for those with statements. Our data collection categories of specific learning difficulties, autistic spectrum disorder and behavioural, emotional and social difficulties include children whose learning difficulties entail *(a)*, *(b)*, *(c)*, *(d)*, *(e)*, *(f)* and *(g)*. Those identified with Meares-Irlen Syndrome could be included under the specific learning difficulties or sensory impairments categories. Those with epilepsy who have learning difficulties which call for special educational provision to be made would be included in the category relating to their particular learning difficulties. The data include children at non-maintained special schools. Data by type of need are not collected for children at the School Action stage of SEN support.

The Government's child health strategy, Healthy Lives, Brighter Futures, published on 12 February, suggested as a flavour of prevalence that out of a child population of 80,000 there would be over 300 with epilepsy.

Pupils: Languages

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) how many and what proportion of pupils with English as a second language had *(a)* statemented and *(b)* non-statemented special educational needs in each year since 1997; [262350]

(2) how many and what proportion of pupils whose first language was not English had *(a)* statemented and *(b)* non-statemented special educational needs in each year since 1997. [265670]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The available information is shown in the table.

Data on pupils with special educational needs, whose first language was not English, is only available from 2002.

Maintained primary, state-funded secondary[1] and all special schools[2]: pupils[3] [4] whose first language is not English[5]: Statemented and non-statemented special educational need. January 2002-08: England

	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
Number of pupils whose first language is known or believed to be other than English	640,120	667,260	681,230	706,910	748,000	808,830	823,830
Number of pupils whose first language is known or believed to be other than English with a statement of SEN	17,800	18,960	18,540	18,890	19,430	20,160	19,450
Percentage of pupils whose first language is known or believed to be other than English with a statement of SEN	2.8	2.8	2.7	2.7	2.6	2.5	2.4
Number of pupils whose first language is known or believed to be other than English with SEN without a statement	135,750	117,040	120,990	128,630	141,410	160,430	173,960
Percentage of pupils whose first language is known or believed to be other than English with SEN without a statement	21.2	17.5	17.8	18.2	19.2	19.8	21.1

[1] Includes City technology colleges and academies.
[2] Excludes general hospital schools.
[3] Excludes dually registered pupils.
[4] Pupils of compulsory school age and above.
[5] Excludes pupils w here the first language w as not obtained or refused.

Pupils: Per Capita Costs

Ms Buck: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how much on average his Department spent per pupil in *(a)* primary and *(b)* secondary education at the school, excluding special schools, where the average spend per pupil was (i) highest and (ii) lowest in each local education authority in the last year for which figures are available. [267431]

Jim Knight: The England average and local education authorities with the (i) highest and (ii) lowest per pupil revenue funding figures are shown in the table. A split of funding by primary and secondary schools is not available as the main source of funding—the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG)—is a funding distribution mechanism with a single guaranteed unit of funding for each pupil in an LA. The DSG is the per pupil funding from DCSF to an LA but, subject to satisfying the minimum funding guarantee for schools, it is left up to the LA to decide locally how much to fund their individual schools (via their local formula).

The following figures are for all funded pupils aged three to 19 and are provided in cash terms:

DSG plus grants revenue funding per pupil, 2008-09

	£
England average	4,690
Highest funded LA: Tower Hamlets	7,350
Lowest Funded LA: Leicestershire	4,150

Notes:
1. This covers funding through the Dedicated Schools Grant, School Standards Grant, School Standards Grant (Personalisation) and Standards Fund as well as funding from the Learning and Skills Council; it excludes grants which are not allocated at LA level.
2. Price Base: cash.
3. These figures are for all funded pupils aged three to 19.
4. Figures have been rounded to the nearest £10.
5. Some of the grant allocations have not been finalised. If these do change, the effect on the funding figures is expected to be minimal.

Schools: Admissions

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many schools using supplementary information forms in their admissions procedures do not have a Plain English Crystal Mark; and if he will make a statement. [266334]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: We do not hold the information requested.

Schools: Finance

Ms Buck: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what steps he takes to monitor the use by local education authorities of funding for schools allocated by local distribution formula; and if he will make a statement. [267430]

Jim Knight: Section 52 of the School Standards and Framework Act 1998 requires local authorities to prepare a statement containing such information relating to their planned expenditure as may be prescribed before the beginning of each financial year and at the end of each financial year a statement of the expenditure actually incurred in the year in a prescribed form. The prescribed forms are currently set out in the Education (Budget Statements) (England) Regulations 2008 (as amended) and the Education (Outturn Statements) (England) Regulations 2008.

Special Educational Needs

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many and what proportion of pupils with *(a)* statemented, *(b)* non-statemented, *(c)* any and *(d)* no special educational needs attended schools assessed as inadequate by Ofsted in each of the last five years. [264671]

Jim Knight: This is a matter for Ofsted. HM Chief Inspector, Christine Gilbert, has written to the hon. Member and a copy of her reply has been placed in the House Libraries.

Letter from Christine Gilbert, dated 30 March 2009:

Your recent parliamentary question has been passed to me, as Her Majesty's Chief Inspector, for reply.

Table A shows how many pupils, with statemented, non-statemented, any and no special educational needs, attended schools which were in special measures at the end of each of the last five academic years. Table B shows these figures as percentages.

Special measures is an Ofsted category, defined in the Education Act 2005, meaning that a school is failing to give its pupils an acceptable standard of education and the persons responsible for leading, managing or governing the school are not demonstrating the capacity to secure the necessary improvement. Please be aware that the framework for inspecting maintained schools changed in September 2005. As a result, there has been no consistent 'inadequate' category over this period. These tables are, therefore, limited to those maintained schools placed in special measures, as this category has been in place throughout the period in question.

Pupil numbers have been calculated using information from the Department for Children, Schools and Families' School Census (pupil level) on pupils registered at one school only, and on pupils registered at two schools, but using their main school as recorded on the census. Pupil Referral Units (PRUs) do not complete the School Census at pupil level and so have been excluded from this analysis.

A copy of this reply has been sent to the right hon. Jim Knight MP, Minister of State for Schools and Learners, and will be placed in the library of both Houses.

Table A: Number of pupils, with statemented, non-statemented, any and no special educational needs, attending schools (excluding pupil referral units) which were in special measures at 31 August 2004 to 2008

	Number of pupils in schools placed in special measures				
	Special educational needs				
	With special educational needs with statements	With special educational needs without statements	Any special educational needs	No special educational needs	Total
2004	4,748	26,436	31,184	99,613	13[illegible]97
2005	3,910	21,652	25,562	82,218	107,780
2006	2,220	17,937	20,157	66,930	87,087
2007	2,315	18,799	21,114	63,768	84,882
2008	2,475	19,667	22,142	64,504	86,646

Note:
Pupil referral units do not submit pupil-level data and are, therefore, excluded from this analysis.
Source:
Figures are based on School Census (pupil level) data from the Department for Children, Schools and Families.

Table B: Percentage of pupils, with statemented, non-statemented, any and no special educational needs, attending schools (excluding pupil referral units) which were in special measures at 31 August 2004 to 2008

	Percentage of pupils in schools placed in special measures				
	Special educational needs				
	With special educational needs with statements	*With special educational needs without statements*	*Any special educational needs*	*No special educational needs*	*Total*
2004	4	20	24	76	100
2005	4	20	24	76	100
2006	3	21	23	77	100
2007	3	22	25	75	100
2008	3	23	26	74	100

Notes:
1. Percentages may not sum to totals due to rounding.
2. Pupil referral units do not submit pupil-level data and are, therefore, excluded from this analysis.
Source:
Figures are based on School Census (pupil level) data from the Department for Children, Schools and Families.

Mr. Flello: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many requests for statements of special educational need were received in the last three years for which figures are available; and how many such requests were processed within 18 weeks. [267256]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The Department only collects figures on the number of new statements issued each year and the number of statutory assessments which were carried out but did not result in a statement. The figures for the last three available years are in the following table. We do not collect figures on the number of requests for assessments, where this request has been refused.

The Audit Commission has published figures on the percentage, rather than the number, of proposed statements issued within 18 weeks, both where permitted exceptions to time limits have been called upon and where they have not. The figures for the last three years are in the following table. This Audit Commission best value performance indicator has been replaced by an indicator in the national indicator set on the percentage of final statements produced in 26 weeks. The first set of figures will be available later this year.

	Percentage of proposed statements of special educational needs issued by local authorities in a financial year and prepared within 18 weeks[1]	
Financial year	*Excluding exceptions*	*Including exceptions*
2007-08	97.6	86.4
2006-07	97.5	86.5
2005-06	96.0	82.7

[1] Figures available from: http://www.audit-commission.gov.uk/performance/dataprovision.asp

Calendar year	*(a) Total children for whom a statement of special needs was made for the first time*	*(b) Children assessed during the calendar year for whom no statement was issued*[1]
2007	23,510	1,270
2006	22,600	1,170
2005	24,040	1,140

[1] Figures available from table 3a: http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000794/index.shtml

Special Educational Needs: Finance

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how much funding his Department has provided to non-maintained special schools since 1997. [267309]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: Data on the funding paid to non-maintained special schools back to 1997 are contained within the larger revenue and capital funding streams paid to the education sector as a whole. There would be a disproportionate cost in disaggregating this data to provide the information requested. However, data for the last three financial years can be provided from operational data that are currently available and are shown in the following table.

			£
Financial year	*Capital funding*	*Revenue funding*	*Total*
2008-09	8,804,787	3,101,163	9,905,950
2007-08	6,211,793	3,338,762	9,550,555
2006-07	5,932,967	3,201,283	9,134,250

Strengthening Families Grant

Mrs. Maria Miller: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how much his Department allocated to local authorities through dedicated funding for outreach and family support in each of the last three years. [260044]

Beverley Hughes: Supporting families is a key priority for the Department for Children, Schools and Families and we are working closely with local authorities to strengthen their capacity to meet the full range of local family and parenting needs.

We are making £102 million available between 2008-09 and 2010-11 to expand parent support advisers who work directly with parents in a school context to all local authorities.

In addition over £150 million is being made available between 2009-10 and 2010-11 for targeted initiatives to support families with high levels of need, with particular focus on parenting skills. This will enable all local authorities to have Family Intervention Projects, the Parenting Early Intervention Programme and to each employ two expert parenting practitioners.

We are continuing to invest heavily in Sure Start Children's Centres with over £3 billion being made available to local authorities over the three year period 2008-09 to 2010-11 and which includes additional funding to enable local authorities to fund two additional full-time outreach posts in Sure Start Children's Centres serving the most disadvantaged communities.

Teachers: Training

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what proportion of time taken training new teachers is spent on training on equality and diversity matters. [268167]

Jim Knight: The statutory requirements for Initial Teacher Training (ITT) require providers to design their provision to enable all trainees to meet the statutory standards for Qualified Teacher Status (QTS).

Equality training must form an element of all programmes of ITT but the length of time studying the topic is not prescribed. In order to meet the standards for QTS, all trainees must demonstrate an awareness of equality matters, and understand how these contribute to the well-being of children and young people. They must demonstrate that they know how a variety of influences including social, religious, ethnic, cultural and linguistic affect child development. Trainees must demonstrate that they are aware of their responsibilities in relation to equality legislation and duties, and be aware of the range of policies that support school practice, for example those that relate to behaviour (including bullying), racial harassment and abuse.

Substantial guidance and relevant case study exemplification on equality issues accompany the Professional Standards for QTS and requirements for ITT.

Trust Schools

Bill Wiggin: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what powers a local authority has in relation to admissions at a school that has attained trust status; and if he will make a statement. [266635]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: All local authorities are required to have in place a scheme each year for co-ordinating admissions arrangements for all maintained schools and academies in their area. Trust schools are maintained foundation schools supported by a foundation—a charity referred to as a "trust"—and as foundation schools they are their own admission authority. Nevertheless, as maintained schools, they must operate within the same legal framework as all other maintained schools, which means they must have an admissions policy in accordance with the School Admissions Code and they are not allowed to introduce any new selection by ability.

Local authorities retain a range of powers in respect of all maintained schools in their area, including those that are their own admission authority. For example, local authorities now have a duty to report annually to the Schools Adjudicator on all admission arrangements in their area, including those of own-admission schools. The Schools Adjudicator can act on any information included within these reports. This is in addition to the local authority duty to refer objections to the Schools Adjudicator if they consider or are made aware of any admission arrangements by any other admission authority that are unlawful or do not comply with the mandatory requirements of the Code, or that appear unfair, subjective, unclear or encourage social segregation.

Local authorities also have powers in respect of children in care and children with statements: when a LA directs an admission authority to admit a child in care, the governing body must admit the child at any specified time in the year, even if the school is full. Equally, a maintained school must admit a child if the LA names that school on the child's statement.

Trust schools are required to play their full part in taking hard to place pupils, having fair admissions and working with other schools in admissions forums and co-ordinated admissions arrangements.

ENERGY AND CLIMATE CHANGE

Climate Change

Greg Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change on what dates *(a)* Ministers and *(b)* officials in his Department have met officials of (i) the Prime Minister's Strategy Unit and (ii) the Prime Minister's Delivery Unit to discuss energy and climate change policy. [266713]

Joan Ruddock: The Secretary of State for DECC and officials work closely with the Prime Minister's Delivery Unit and the Strategy Unit on a number of issues and there have been many meetings between the units and my Department since DECC's inception in October.

Particular areas where they have collaborated include the assessment of Public Service Agreement PSA 27 (to lead the global effort to avoid dangerous climate change), delivery of insulation measures and carbon budgets.

In addition, the Prime Minister's Delivery Unit is present at relevant meetings of the Delivery and Strategy High-Level Board for the Climate Change and Energy Programme.

Departmental Absenteeism

Mr. Scott: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how many staff of his Department were recorded absent for non-medical reasons on *(a)* 2 February 2009 and *(b)* 3 February 2009; what estimate he has made of the (i) cost to his Department and (ii) number of working hours lost as a result of such absence; and what guidance his Department issued to staff in respect of absence on those days. [260580]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: Centrally held records relate to absences for medical reasons and also cover absences such as maternity leave. Beyond this special leave may be granted by line managers in accordance with centrally issued guidelines, e.g. for family bereavement. These are not recorded centrally and to do so would incur a disproportionate cost, although the Department does put arrangements in place in the event of industrial action.

Guidance was issued in respect of the adverse weather of the 2 and 3 February, 2009. Staff were advised to make alternative arrangements such as different means of transport or working from home. Staff were also advised to contact their line managers, without delay, to agree the most appropriate course of action. Managers had a range of options available to ensure business continuity, such as:

Working flexibly or from home.

Different work patterns to ease disruption of public transport, e.g. start work later.

Using annual leave.

Departmental Buildings

Greg Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change pursuant to the answer of 16 December 2008, *Official Report*, column 705W, on departmental buildings, how many staff have been moved into 3 Whitehall Place since his Department was created; and how many have yet to be moved there. [255956]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: A total of 376 DECC staff had moved into the Department's London headquarters at 3 Whitehall Place as of 23 March 2009. Approximately 530 London staff have yet to move.

Departmental Energy

Greg Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how much *(a)* electricity, *(b)* gas and *(c)* other fuel has been used by his Department since its inception. [267335]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: As at 30 March 2009, the Department has used approximately 1,066,912 kWh of electricity and 570,944 kWh of gas since its inception. This is based on average daily usage.

Departmental Responsibilities

Greg Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what projects for which his Department is responsible have undergone a gateway review in the last two years. [266628]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The Department of Energy and Climate Change is responsible for the following projects which have undergone a Gateway review in the last two years:

(i) Nuclear Fuel Assurance/Enrichment Bond;

(ii) Severn Tidal Power Feasibility Study;

(iii) Government Carbon Offsetting Fund II (currently in progress);

(iv) Carbon Capture and Storage Demonstration Project;

(v) Low Level Waste Repository competition;

(vi) Sellafield competition; and

(vii) Asset Use.

Departmental Standards

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what estimate he has made of the cost to his Department of measuring compliance with its targets under its public service agreements since its inception. [266561]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: Since the creation of DECC, there has been a small additional cost in terms of officials' time to monitor compliance with PSA27: Lead the global effort to avoid dangerous climate change. The work has involved developing information on performance indicators, completing self-assessments and reviewing progress, which has been discussed at meetings of the Delivery and Strategy High-Level Board for the Climate Change and Energy programme.

Departmental Training

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what training courses were *(a)* available to and *(b)* taken up by (i) civil servants and (ii) Ministers in his Department in the last 12 months. [266276]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The Department of Energy and Climate Change delegates responsibility for booking individuals on training programmes to its various business units and does not, therefore, maintain central records. To compile a central record would incur a disproportionate cost.

Much of the Department's learning is provided through the DECC school, which aims to provide everyone within the Department with formal and informal opportunities to develop a detailed understanding of energy and climate change policies, industries, markets and key technologies. It also aims to develop the specific skills needed to carry out particular roles in our new Department.

The school has four work streams:

The DECC School Prospectus for Faculties, Seminars & Visits.

Academic.

Vocational.

Skills for Professionals.

Through the DECC school staff can achieve credits towards vocational and professional qualifications on the basis of business need.

Departmental Vacancies

Greg Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how many vacant posts at each Civil Service grade there were in his Department on 1 March 2009. [266619]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The Department of Energy and Climate Change was established on 3 October 2008, bringing together parts of the Department for the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs and the Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform. It is now engaged in business planning for the period 2009-10 to 2010-11 which will result in agreed resource allocations for the Department's business units. This will determine the number of vacancies there are to be filled. Local business managers will then determine the appropriate grade to recruit based on business need and available budget.

This process was on going on the 1 March, 2009.

Electricity Generation

Greg Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change for what electricity generating plants of each fuel type planning consent has been *(a)* sought and *(b)* granted in each of the last five years. [266627]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The following table shows the applications for consent for electricity generating stations in England and Wales made to the Department of Energy and Climate Change (and previously the Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform and the Department of Trade and Industry) within the previous five years and those that were granted. These include applications made under Section 36 of the Electricity Act 1989 (i.e. for generating stations over 50 MW in England and Wales) as well as applications made under the Transport and Works Act 1992 and certain appeals under the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 which were decided jointly with the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government.

Applications for consent for onshore electricity generating stations of up to and including 50 MW are made to local planning authorities under the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 and these are not included in the table.

Applications received and consented in previous five years

Date of application	*Company / location*	*Type*	*Max output*	*Status*
February 2009	Helius Energy plc Bristol Dock Avonmouth	Biomass	100 MW	Under consideration
January 2009	Centrica (RBW) Ltd Race Bank Greater Wash	Offshore wind farm	620 MW	Under consideration
December 2008	Npower Renewables Ltd Carnedd Wen Powys	Onshore wind farm	130-250 MW	Under consideration
December 2008	Centrica (DSW) Ltd Docking Shoal Greater Wash	Offshore wind farm	540 MW	Under consideration
October 2008	Marshland Windfarm Ltd Norfolk	Onshore Windfarm	57 MW	Application withdrawn -February 2009
September 2008	Renewable Energy Ltd Peterborough Fengate	Biomass/ EFW	66 MW	Under consideration
August 2008	Port Talbot P/Stn, ESBI/Acorn Power, Neath, Port Talbot, Wales	CCGT + black start	1,100 MW	Application withdrawn -November 2008
August 2008	Abernedd Power Co Ltd Abernedd Power Plant Baglan Bay	CCGT	870 MW	Under consideration
July 2008	MGT Teesside Limited Teesside Renewable Energy Plant Teesport	Biomass	295 MW	Under consideration
May 2008	CeltPower Limited Llandinam nr Newtown Powys	Onshore wind farm (repowering and extension)	126 MW	Under consideration
May 2008	Fferm Wynt Llaithddu Cyf Llaithddu Powys	Onshore wind farm	66.7 MW	Under consideration
April 2008	Centrica Leasing (KL) Kings Lynn B Norfolk	CCGT	1,020 MW	Granted - February 2009
March 2008	Humber Wind Limited Humber Gateway	Offshore wind farm	300 MW	Under consideration
March 2008	Powerfuel Power Hatfield Park Doncaster	CCGT and ICGCC	900 MW	Granted - February 2009
February 2008	Ormonde Energy Ormonde - East Irish Sea[1]	Offshore wind farm	150 MW	Granted -September 2008
February 2008	Tilbury Green Power Ltd Tilbury Docks Essex	Biomass and Energy from Waste	60 MW	Under consideration
December 2007	Pulse Tidal Upper Burcom River Humber	Tidal power	0.15 MW	Granted - April 2008
November 2007	Nuon UK Ltd Llanbadarn Fynydd Powys	Onshore wind farm	59.5 MW	Under consideration
Appeal recovered - October 2007	CRE Energy Land adjacent to Alcan Smelter Lynemouth Northumberland	Onshore wind farm TCPA Appeal (joint decision by DECC and CLG SoS)	16.1 MW	Granted - January 2001
July 2007	Bridestones Developments Ltd Carrington	CCGT (ext from previous 380MW)	860 MW	Granted-July 2008
July 2007	Norsea Pipelines Ltd Seal Sands Teesside	CHP CCGT	800 MW	Under consideration
June 2007	Dong Energy Gunfleet Sands II - Outer Thames Estuary	Offshore wind farm	64 MW	Granted - February 2008
April 2007	Wave Drag[illegible] Wales Ltd Wave Dragon	Wave energy	7MW	Under consideration
February 2007	Helius Energy Hobson Way Stallingborough, Lincs	Bio-mass	65 MW	Granted - June 2008
January 2007	Thor Cogeneration Seal Sands, Teeside	CHP-CCGT	1.020 MW	Granted - August 2008
January 2007	Centrica (Lines) Off Lincolnshire	Offshore wind farm	250 MW	Granted - October 2008
January 2007	Cirrus Energy Cirrus Shell Flat Array	Offshore wind farm	270 MW	Withdrawn -November 2008
January 2007	Ineos Chlor West Point Runcorn	CHP - EFW	100 MW	Granted -September 2008
December 2006	E.ON UK Plc, Kingsnorth, Medway	Coal-fired	1,600 MW+50 MW 'black start'	Under consideration
October 2006	PrenergyPower Ltd Puckey House Port Talbot Docks	Bio-mass	350 MW	Granted -November 2007
August 2006	Barking Power Ltd Barking Power Station Dagenham, Essex	CCGT (ext from previous 470MW)	1,000 MW	Granted -December 2007
June 2006	SWRDA Wave Hub Off North Cornwall	Wave energy	20 MW	Granted -September 2007
May 2006	Scira Offshore Energy Greater Wash	Offshore wind farm	315 MW	Granted - August 2008

**Applications received and consented in previous five years*

Date of application	*Company / location*	*Type*	*Max output*	*Status*
May 2006	Severn Power Ltd Uskmouth Newport	CCGT	800 MW	Granted -September 2007
April 2006	Steadings Windfarm Ltd Steadings nr Kirkwhelpington Northumberland	Onshore wind farm	66 MW	Under consideration
March 2006	Bridestones Power Ltd Carrington Manchester	CCGT	380 MW	Granted-July 2007
March 2006	Walney Dong Ltd Walney - East Irish Sea	Offshore wind farm	600 MW	Granted -November 2007
March 2006	Morecambe Wind Ltd West of Duddon Sands - East Irish Sea	Offshore wind farm	500 MW	Granted -September 2008
January 2006	Peel Environmental Ince Ltd Ince Cheshire	Refuse Derived Fuel	95 MW	Under consideration
December 2005	EDF Energy West Burton Power Station Nottinghamshire	CCGT	1,270 MW	Granted - October 2007
December 2005	EDF Energy Sutton Bridge B	CCGT Gas Turbine	1260MW+20 MW 'black start'	Under consideration
December 2005	Npower Renewables Middlemoor Northumberland	Onshore windfarm	75 MW	Granted - August 2008
December 2005	E.ON UK Isle of Grain Kent	CCGT-CHP	1,260 MW	Granted - October 2006
December 2005	Amec Project Investments Ltd Ray wind Nr Kirkwhelpington Northumberland	Onshore wind farm	60 MW	Under consideration
November 2005	Conoco Refinery (Immingham CHP) South Killingholme	CHP CCGT	1,230 MW	Granted - August 2006
November 2005	Thanet Offshore Wind Ltd Outer Thames Estuary	Offshore wind farm	300 MW	Granted-December 2006
November 2005	Gwynt y Mor Offshore Wind Farm Ltd Gwynt y Mor - off North Wales	Offshore wind farm	750 MW	Granted - December 2008
October 2005	Greater Gabbard Offshore Wind Ltd Outer Thames Estuary	Offshore wind farm	500 MW	Granted — February 2007
September 2005	Mark Caudwell Limited Orby Marsh, Skegness	Onshore wind farm	54MW	Application Withdrawn -2008
September 2005	Scottish and Southern Energy Fiddler's Ferry Warrington	Retrofit of FGD	1,200 MW	Granted - April 2006
September 2005	E.on UK Drakelow South Derbyshire	CCGT	1,220 MW	Granted - October 2007
July 2005	Ormonde Energy Limited Ormonde - East Irish Sea	Offshore wind farm	108 MW	Granted - February 2007
July 2005	Eclipse Energy Limited Ormonde - East Irish Sea	Offshore gas station	93 MW	Granted - February 2007
June 2005	London Array Ltd Outer Thames Estuary	Offshore wind farm	1,000 MW	Granted -December 2006
April 2005	RWE Didcot B Oxfordshire	Extension - new CCGT turbines	120 MW	Granted - January 2006
February 2005	Milford Power Ltd Milford Haven, Haverfordwest, Wales	CCGT	1,600 MW	Application withdrawn - June 2005
February 2005	CDCE Ltd, Purland Road, W Thamesmead,	CHP-GT	100 MW	Application withdrawn -October 2006
January 2005	RWE Npower Pembroke	CCGT	2,000 MW	Granted - February 2009
November 2004	Corus Strip Products UK Corus Steel Works Port Talbot	ext: turbo-alternator	20 MW	Granted - March 2005
September 2004	Devon Wind Power Fullabrook Down North Devon	Onshore wind farm	66 MW	Granted - October 2007
August 2004	RWE Npower Little Barford Bedfordshire	OCGT-Black Start	20 MW	Granted-November 2004
March 2004	EDF (Northern Offshore Wind) Teesside	Offshore wind farm	100MW	Granted -September 2007

1 replaces previous wind farm consent issued on February 2007

Applications older than five years but consented in previous 5 years

January 2004	E.ON UK Renewables Ltd Tween Bridge Doncaster	Onshore wind farm	66 MW	Granted - February 2008
October 2003	Renewable Energy Systems Keadby Nth Lines	Onshore wind farm	85 MW	Granted - February 2008
October 2003	EDF Energy Cottam Power Station Retford, Notts	retrofit of FGD	2,000 MW	Granted - March 2004
August 2003	RWE Innogy Aberthaw South Glamorgan	retrofit of FGD Plant	1,500 MW	Granted - June 2004
July 2003	Peel Wind Power Ltd Scout Moor Wind Farm Edenfield, Lancs	Onshore wind farm	65 MW	Granted - May 2005
November 2002	Npower Renewables Little Cheyne Court Walland Marsh, Kent	Onshore wind farm	78 MW	Granted - October 2005
June 2002	Rugeley Power Rugeley Power Station Staffordshire	retrofit of FGD plant	1,000 MW	Granted - January 2004
March 2000	Scottish and Southern Energy Fiddler's Ferry Warrington	Retrofit of FGD plant	500 MW	Granted - June 2005

Applications older than five years but consented in previous 5 years

September 1999	Riverside Resource Recovery Ltd Belvedere SE London	Energy from waste	70 MW	Granted - June 2006

Key:
Glossary:
EFW- Energy from waste
CCGT- Combined cycle gas turbine
ICGCC - Integrated coal gasification combined cycle
CHP - Combined heat and power
FGD - Flue gas desulphurisation

Greg Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what increase in costs to the national grid would result from the connection to the grid of a new electricity generation unit of *(a)* 1600 MW and *(b)* 1800 MW. [266780]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: National grid advise that connecting larger units of up to 1800 MW to the grid would create additional costs, principally, because national grid would need to carry more reserve capacity than currently in the event of loss of generation from one of those units.

National grid has recently published a consultation on this issue and estimates that the additional costs of increasing the reserve to allow for a potential loss of power in-feed in excess of the current level of 1320 MW would be approximately £95 million per annum for a generation unit of 1600 MW and £160 million per annum for a generation unit of 1800 MW. Any changes to current arrangements are subject to Ofgem approval. Other costs of connecting individual power stations to the grid are determined by national grid on a case-by-case basis, and depend on a wide range of factors including location, system capacity, voltage and land availability.

Energy Saving Trust

Greg Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what arrangements have been made for *(a)* the Energy Saving Trust and *(b)* the Carbon Trust to account to Parliament for their (i) policy and (ii) expenditure. [256854]

Joan Ruddock: The Energy Saving Trust and the Carbon Trust are both private companies limited by guarantee. They both receive funding from Government Departments and the devolved Administrations either in the form of contractual arrangements or as a grant offer. These grants and contracts are offered to the trusts to support their activities, which contribute to the Government's policy objectives on climate change, accelerating the move to a low carbon economy, resource efficiency and fuel poverty. The trusts' activities form an important element of the Government's Climate Change Programme. The relevant Government funders are accountable to Parliament for their spending in the normal way.

The trusts are both subject to annual reports by independent auditors and have their activities evaluated as part of independent reviews, including, for the Carbon Trust, a National Audit Office review and subsequent Public Accounts Committee hearing and report in 2007-08.

Energy: Conservation

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change (1) what estimate he has made of the proportion of visits by assessors to homes of old age pensioners, under the energy conservation and insulation package announced on 11 September 2008, whose visit has not resulted in insulation of lofts, walls or lagging of pipes; and whether assessors are paid for the time taken and travel costs that do not result in energy conservation action; [253328]

(2) what requirement has been placed on companies contracted to deliver the package on home cavity wall and loft insulation measures in pensioner households, as announced on 11 September 2008, to *(a)* pay assessors for each visit made to pensioner or other households to which they have been sent, notwithstanding whether an energy conservation package is consequently installed and *(b)* to use the assessor visits to offer other energy services provided by the contractor. [253329]

Joan Ruddock: The package of home energy efficiency measures announced by my right hon. Friend the Prime Minister in September last year is delivered principally through two Government schemes; the Carbon Emissions Reduction Target (CERT) and Warm Front.

CERT is a market-based mechanism that operates through an obligation on energy suppliers. The Government are not party to the contractual arrangements between suppliers and their delivery partners, including assessors, as this is an internal commercial matter for them.

None of the additional funding granted to the Warm Front Scheme in the September 2008 announcement has been or will be used to pay for assessments. Eaga plc, the Warm Front Scheme Manager, does not offer any other energy services to the household when assessing a property.

On 11 September my right hon. Friend the Prime Minister also announced a new Community Energy Saving Programme (CESP). The Government are currently consulting on CESP proposals.

Fossil Fuels

Simon Hughes: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what estimate his Department has made of the levels of investment by UK-based companies in *(a)* oil sands and shale oil, *(b)* conventional oil projects, *(c)* gas projects and *(d)* coal-fired power stations in the last five years. [265904]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The Department does not make estimates of the levels of investment in these categories whether by UK-based companies or in aggregate. We do publish annually, in UK Energy Sector Indicators, data from the Office for National Statistics on total investment by the UK (upstream) oil and gas industry, the UK (downstream) gas industry and the UK electricity industry. UK Energy Sector Indicators 2008 is available [illegible] at:

[illegible]www.berr.gov.uk/energy/statistics/publications/indicators/page46000.html

The data are presented, respectively, in charts E1.8, E1.14 and E1.11 and the data are included in the background indicators dataset spreadsheet at:

http://www.berr.gov.uk/files/file48503.xls

Fuel Poverty

Mr. Oaten: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how much of the proposed £1 billion scheme to help fuel-poor individuals has been made available; and how much is available for claims for insulation installations under the Warm Front scheme for over 60 year-olds. [252896]

Joan Ruddock *[holding answer 29 January 2009]:* On 11 September 2008, my right hon. Friend the Prime Minister announced the launch of a £1 billion package of measures to help families permanently cut their energy bills, known as the Home Energy Saving Programme. This included a 20 per cent. increase in the Carbon Emission Reduction Target (CERT) estimated to be worth around £560 million (an obligation on energy suppliers to install energy efficiency measures in households), £350 million for the new Community Energy Saving Programme (CESP), and £90 million of additional Government funding, providing increased funding for the Warm Front Scheme and for Cold Weather Payments.

Energy suppliers' targets under CERT are set in terms of household carbon savings rather than spending. Ofgem, the Scheme Administrator, does not collect data on energy supplier spend. Based on the costs of the measures promoted by suppliers we estimate that the overall costs to suppliers of delivering their obligations will exceed £3 billion over the period 2008-11. This includes an additional £560 million suppliers are expected to spend as a result of the increased CERT target announced by my right hon. Friend the Prime Minister in September.

The CESP consultation was launched on 12 February alongside the Heat and Energy Saving Strategy and CERT consultations.

An estimated 5.8 million Cold Weather Payments worth £145 million have been made for Great Britain this winter based on the temperature criterion having been met up to 26 January 2009.

From 1 October 2008 to 11 January 2009 the Warm Front Scheme spent approximately £50 million of the extra £74 million added to the budget for 2008-09 and 2009-10, with the residual £24 million allocated to the second of these years.

Warm Front does not specifically designate funding for insulation measures, neither does it designate different levels of funding to different qualifying demographics. Pensioners in receipt of qualifying benefits are allocated a grant (either £2,700, or £4,000 where an oil measure is requested) that can be used for a range of energy efficiency measures, which may include insulation.

Fuel Poverty: Chelmsford

Mr. Burns: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how many fuel-poor households there were in West Chelmsford constituency in each of the last five years. [268403]

Joan Ruddock: The most recent year for which estimates of fuel poverty are available at constituency level is 2003. The data for fuel poverty levels for 2003 come from the Fuel Poverty Indicator dataset, available online at

http://www.fuelpovertyindicator.org.uk/

In 2003, there were around 2,300 households in the constituency of West Chelmsford living in fuel poverty. Fuel poverty has increased substantially in recent years due to high fuel prices but figures are not available for more recent years at constituency level.

Government Communication Network

Greg Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how many staff in *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agencies (i) are classified as Government communicators and (ii) have access to the Government Communication Network. [266678]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: I refer the hon. Member to the reply I gave him on 23 March 2009, *Official Report*, columns 172-73W.

Insulation: Tendring

Mr. Carswell: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what funding for loft and cavity wall insulation for *(a)* priority groups and *(b)* older people will be made available to Tendring residents. [253977]

Joan Ruddock *[holding answer 5 February 2009]:* Warm Front is the Government's main scheme for tackling fuel poverty in the private sector in England for vulnerable householders. It is administered and managed by eaga plc on behalf of the Government. The scheme provides grants for specified heating and insulation measures up to £2,700 in value (£4,000 where the work includes installation of an oil fired central heating system).

To be eligible for the scheme the applicant or their spouse must be a homeowner or tenant in the private sector and in receipt of a qualifying disability or income related benefit, income-based jobseeker's allowance or working tax credit, child tax credit, disability living allowance, pension credit, council tax benefit or housing benefit (both including a disability element).

All eligible Warm Front applicants will receive a survey of their property (which includes energy efficiency advice) and two energy efficient light bulbs. Warm Front can also provide a package of insulation and heating measures tailored to each property, drawn from the following measures listed:

Insulation measures

Loft insulation

Draught proofing

Cavity-wall insulation

Hot-water-tank insulation

Funding is also available in Great Britain from the big six energy suppliers under the Carbon Emissions Reduction Target (CERT). CERT places an obligation on the suppliers to meet targets by encouraging households to take-up energy efficiency measures. It is at suppliers' discretion how they meet their targets, but they will typically promote subsidised offers for a range of measures, including loft and cavity wall insulation and high-efficiency lights and appliances. Suppliers must focus at least 40 per cent. of their CERT activity on a priority group of vulnerable and low-income households, which includes those over 70.

The level of subsidy varies over time and from supplier to supplier, but all currently offer around a 50 per cent. discount on loft insulation (where less than 60 mm is in place) and cavity wall insulation. For those in the priority group, these measures are often available free of charge, subject to a survey of the property.

Data are not currently available on the geographical distribution of measures under CERT. For Great Britain as a whole, the scheme led to an estimated supplier investment of almost £2 billion between 2002 and 2008, leading to some 5 million households benefiting from insulation measures. We estimate that the current three-year phase of the obligation will lever over £3 billion of supplier investment by 2011, benefiting a further 5 million households with significant energy saving measures.

Natural Gas

Mr. Crabb: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change when he expects the national policy statement on gas storage infrastructure *(a)* to be published and *(b)* to become operational in respect of new projects. [266863]

Mr. Mike O'Brien *[holding answer 26 March 2009]*: The Department of Energy and Climate Change currently expects the national policy statement (NPS) on gas storage infrastructure to be published for consultation in the summer. The NPS is currently expected to be designated as part of the suite of Energy Infrastructure NPSs to become operational in 2010.

Nuclear Power: Research

Greg Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how much the Government spent on nuclear fusion research *(a)* in the UK and *(b)* internationally in each of the last five years. [266682]

Mr. Lammy: I have been asked to reply.

The Government provide support for nuclear fusion research in the UK through the Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council (EPSRC).

UK funding, including the Nuclear Contract of Association, is as follows:

	£ million
2003-04	19.2
2004-05	22.7
2005-06	20.7
2006-07	26.0
2007-08	26.1

The UK does not fund international fusion research directly, though it contributes to the Euratom European fusion research programme through its payments to the EU budget.

Renewable Energy: Finance

Greg Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change (1) how much has been raised through the sale of renewables obligation certificates by central Government departments in each year of the scheme; [266611]

(2) how many renewables obligation certificates have been supplied to central Government departments in each year of the scheme. [266612]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: Details of renewables obligation certificates issued can be found in the Renewables and CHP register located on the Ofgem website. According to the register no central Government Departments are accredited to receive renewables obligation certificates directly.

Renewable Energy: Manpower

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how many manufacturing jobs there were in the renewable energy industry in each of the last 10 years. [265509]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: I refer my hon. Friend to the answer I gave him on 18 March 2009, *Official Report*, column 1266W, regarding manufacturing jobs created in the renewable energy industry.

DECC does not collate employment information for this sector on a year by year basis.

Sellafield

Mr. Meacher: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what the level of production of the mixed-oxide fuel plant at Sellafield has been in each year of its operation; and what the net return of the plant was in each of those years. [266653]

Mr. Mike O'Brien *[holding answer 26 March 2009]*: The production and net cash flow figures for each year of operation are:

Year	*tHM*	*Cash flow (£ millions)*
2002-03	0.0	-78.6
2003-04	0.0	-83.3
2004-05	0.3	-110.1
2005-06	2.3	-79.9
2006-07	2.6	-92.1
2007-08	0.0	-92.1
2008-09	1.1	[1]-89.9
Totals	6.3	-626.0

[1] Estimate

Net cash flow is arrived at by deducting operating costs, overheads and subcontracts from sales. £498 million of capital costs and £139.4 million of commissioning costs were incurred prior to the production phase of commissioning.

Greg Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what recent risk assessment his Department has undertaken in relation to hydrogen evolution in silos at Sellafield. [267009]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: Assessment of the risks associated with the inventory in the silos is a matter for the site licence company, Sellafield Ltd., and the Nuclear Decommissioning Authority.

Assessing and managing the risk of hydrogen generation is fundamental to the safe operation and maintenance of the Magnox swarf storage silo. The risks are continuously monitored and reviewed regularly and updated throughout the year.

Robust and ongoing risk assessment is assured through HSE scrutiny of safety cases for ongoing operations and plant modifications. These risk assessments are underpinned by regular audits and inspections.

Warm Front Scheme

Andrew Stunell: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how many people aged *(a)* under and *(b)* over 60 years in each (i) region and (ii) local authority area (A) were offered a Warm Front grant, (B) were required to pay a top-up to a Warm Front grant and (C) did not take up a Warm Front grant offer in each of the last five years. [253600]

Joan Ruddock: The requested figures are available from the beginning of the current phase of the Warm Front scheme (June 2005). The number of applicants *(a)* under and *(b)* over 60 years of age in each (i) region and (ii) local authority area who (A) were offered a Warm Front grant and (B) required to make a contribution to the cost of works have been placed in the House Library.

(C) Data on those who do not proceed with grant assistance is not recorded by region or local authority area, but we can advise that since June 2005, 6,076 households have withdrawn from the scheme and a further 14,326 households (as at October 2008) have put their application on hold. Rising costs have led to more people being asked to contribute and this has probably contributed to these figures. Grant maxima are being considered as part of the review of Warm Front.

Greg Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what payment is made to Eaga in respect of each Warm Front installation of *(a)* energy efficient light bulbs, *(b)* draught proofing and *(c)* hot water tank jackets. [257473]

Joan Ruddock: The Department does not make payments to Eaga in respect of each individual measures. However, the Department does pay both fixed and variable fees to Eaga, which in turn pays the suppliers.

The average costs of the three measures, as charged against the individual grant, are as follows:

(a) Compact Fluorescent Light bulbs sent by post—£8.09

(b) Draught proofing—£142.83

(c) Hot water tank jacket—£16.98

Mr. Frank Field: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how many complaints regarding the Warm Front scheme his Department and its predecessor have recorded *(a)* from residents of Birkenhead constituency and *(b)* nationally. [258372]

Joan Ruddock *[holding answer 25 February 2009]*: Eaga, the scheme manager, records and monitors complaints received about the scheme on DECC's behalf. The recent NAO report states that complaints to the scheme have remained relatively static at around 1.5 per cent. between June 2005 and March 2008, and of these complaints 0.5 per cent. were upheld.

In the period 1 June 2005 to 31 January 2009, Eaga recorded 13,107 complaints nationally, of which 4,574 were upheld. Of these, 75 were in the Birkenhead constituency where 24 were upheld.

The Department has kept a record of all Warm Front correspondence cases since January 2007. The total number of cases received by the Department is approximately 1,750. However not all of these cases will necessarily be complaints. DECC has recently put in place mechanisms for recording and monitoring all complaints received, though substantive figures are not yet available.

Mr. Frank Field: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how many boilers have been *(a)* installed under the Warm Front scheme and *(b)* replaced under the scheme (i) in Birkenhead constituency and (ii) nationally. [258373]

Joan Ruddock *[holding answer 25 February 2009]*: In the period from 1 June 2005 to 31 January 2009 the number of boilers installed (as part of a full central heating installation), and the number of replacement boilers (as a repair of an existing system) offered under the Warm Front scheme in Birkenhead and England were:

(i) Birkenhead

(a) 338 boilers installed (full central heating installations).

(b) 836 replacement boilers (central heating repairs).

(ii) England

(a) 66,505 boilers installed (full central heating installations).

(b) 208,734 replacement boilers (central heating repairs).

Mr. Oaten: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how many houses have been insulated in *(a)* England, *(b)* Hampshire and *(c)* Winchester under Government schemes in each of the last five years. [265905]

Joan Ruddock *[holding answer 23 March 2009]*: Energy suppliers are not currently required to collect data beyond a GB-wide level. Figures published by Ofgem show the numbers treated as follows:

	Priority Group	*Non-Priority Group*
Energy Efficiency Commitment (2002-05)		
Cavity Wall Insulation	441,213	396,311
Loft Insulation (Top-Up)	343,467	891,029
Loft Insulation (Virgin)	142,361	83,864
DIY Loft Insulation	1,094,548	13,070,819
Solid Wall	17,332	6,370
Energy Efficiency Commitment 2 (2005-08)		
Cavity Wall Insulation	908,821	906,008
Loft Insulation (Top-Up)	787,572	909,603
Loft Insulation (Virgin)	297,281	143,409

	Priority Group	*Non-Priority Group*
DIY Loft Insulation	3,170,210	28,803,719
Solid Wall Insulation	20,590	11,760

Carbon Emissions Reduction Target (2008-2011)

Initial figures released by Ofgem for the first three quarters of the present obligation show:

	Number
Cavity Wall Insulation	401,707
Loft Insulation	405,170

	Number
Solid Wall Insulation	7,161

A detailed breakdown will not become available until the close of the obligation in March 2011.

Warm Front

Warm Front is the Government's main Scheme for tackling fuel poverty and delivers a range of energy saving measures to those in receipt of qualifying benefits. The Scheme is administered by a single contractor, eaga plc, and operates throughout England. The number of homes insulated under the scheme are as follows:

	Scheme year					
Area	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*	*2008-09*[1]	*Total*
Winchester constituency	118	85	48	43	83	377
Hampshire	5,917	3,193	2,732	1,983	1,948	15,773
England (All)	149,708	80,564	95,458	121,624	98,449	545,803

[1] Data available up to 25 January 2009

Daniel Kawczynski: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how many Warm Front contractors are employed in *(a)* Shropshire, *(b)* the West Midlands and *(c)* England. [267758]

Joan Ruddock: The number of contractors employed in *(a)* Shropshire, *(b)* the West Midlands and *(c)* England is as follows:

Area	*Number*
Shropshire	21
West Midlands	36
England	121

Daniel Kawczynski: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what proportion of Warm Front grants awarded in *(a)* Shropshire, *(b)* the West Midlands and *(c)* England were subject to an excess payment in 2008. [267762]

Joan Ruddock: The proportions of Warm Front grants in *(a)* Shropshire, *(b)* West Midlands and *(c)* England that required a client contribution are detailed as follows. These data are based on the period 1 April 2008 until 6 March 2009, which is most recent period for which consolidated data in available.

Area	*Proportion of people required to pay a contribution (percentage)*
Shropshire	23
West Midlands	36
England	24

John Battle: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what representations his Department has received from *(a)* Warm Front contractors and *(b)* recipients of Warm Front grants on the reliability of Ravenheat boilers installed under the Warm Front scheme; what analysis his Department has made of such representations; and if he will make a statement. [267826]

Joan Ruddock: Neither DECC nor its predecessors have any record of representations concerning Ravenheat boilers. However our existing correspondence records only date back to 2007, while the last Ravenheat boiler to be used under the Scheme was installed in 2005.

John Battle: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how many sub-contracts Eaga has let to sub-contractors for installing Ravenheat boilers under the Warm Front scheme. [267827]

Joan Ruddock: Ravenheat boilers are not an approved item under this phase of the Scheme (from 21 May 2005), though may be installed as an ad hoc measure when they are requested by the person applying and judged to be the most suitable option for the property. The last time a request for a Ravenheat boiler was accepted was in 2005: the boiler was installed with no reported faults.

John Battle: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what estimate he has made of the *(a)* number and *(b)* proportion of Ravenheat boilers installed under the Warm Front scheme which have developed a fault within 12 months of installation. [267828]

Joan Ruddock: The only Ravenheat boiler to be used under this phase of the Scheme (beginning 21 May 2005) was installed in 2005 and there are no reported faults. Ravenheat boilers are not an approved Warm Front item and will only be installed, as in this case, where requested by the client and adjudged to be the best option for the household.

Warm Front Scheme: Contracts

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what the monetary value is of Warm Front contracts held by *(a)* Iguana and *(b)* Lionheart; and how many installations each company has completed under those contracts. [266006]

Joan Ruddock *[holding answer 24 March 2009]:* The total number of installations carried out by each company, together with the monetary value of that work, is detailed in the following table. This figure is based on analysis from the present phase of the scheme and runs from June 2005 to March 2009.

	Installations completed June 2005 to March 2009	*Value (£)*
Eaga Heat (formerly Iguana)	108,925	149,688,758.00
Lionheart	3,523	4,566,933

Written Questions: Government Responses

Mr. Oaten: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change when he plans to answer Question 252896, tabled by the hon. Member for Winchester on 26 January 2009, on the Warm Front scheme. [257164]

Joan Ruddock: I responded to question 252896 on 2 April 2009 and apologise for the delay, which was due to departmental reorganisation.

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change when he plans to answer question 248137, tabled on 14 January 2009, on power cuts in Stroud constituency. [264184]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: I refer my hon. Friend to the answer I gave him on 16 March 2009, *Official Report*, column 941W.

HOUSE OF COMMONS COMMISSION

Energy

Greg Clark: To ask the hon. Member for North Devon, representing the House of Commons Commission what recent progress the House of Commons has made towards the Government's target of increasing its energy efficiency per square metre of the Government Estate by 15 per cent. by 2010, relative to 1999-2000 levels; and if he will make a statement. [266876]

Nick Harvey: While the Sustainable Operations on the Government Estate (SOGE) targets do not apply to Parliament, the House has been working to a similar target: to reduce energy consumption by 15 per cent. by 2010-11, relative to 1999-2000.

Progress towards this target has been very disappointing. It is estimated that in 2007-08 the energy consumption per square metre for the parliamentary estate was 6 per cent. greater than in 1999-2000, though the reliability of the baseline information cannot be assured. While this increase is at least in part explained by increased usage of the estate, it is recognised that significant changes are required if we are to meet our commitment to improved environmental sustainability.

The care of the environment has been given high priority within the corporate business plan for 2009-10, and the resources allocated to this area of activity have been increased. A new, senior member of the Parliamentary Estate Directorate staff has recently been appointed to lead a reconfigured and strengthened Fire, Safety, and Environment team. A fresh set of co-ordinated environmental initiatives are in preparation, together with a communications plan to ensure the necessary engagement and support of Members and staff. A new environmental policy statement and challenging, yet realistic, environmental objectives will be proposed to the Commission later this year.

Meanwhile, practical steps have been taken to increase energy efficiency. The House Service has, in the last 12 months, reconfigured building management systems; installed new remote energy meters, kitchen ventilation and lighting controls, energy efficient lighting and movement sensors; developed design standards for energy consuming services and conducted building energy surveys. While it will take some time for these arrangements to have full impact, they should help to achieve a marked reduction in our energy consumption.

Parliament: Security

Mr. Hayes: To ask the hon. Member for North Devon, representing the House of Commons Commission how many staff of hon. Members hold parliamentary passes; and how many such passholders are non-UK nationals. [268793]

Nick Harvey: As at 2 April 2009, in the House of Commons there were 1,657 valid passes for Members' staff. Of these, there were 123 passholders whose nationality is recorded as other than British. There are also 79 passholders of dual nationality where British forms part of the nationality.

OLYMPICS

Departmental Public Expenditure

Dr. Cable: To ask the Minister for the Olympics what her latest estimate is of capital expenditure of the Government Olympic Office in *(a)* 2008-09, *(b)* 2009-10, *(c)* 2010-11 and *(d)* 2011-12; and if she will make a statement. [268132]

Tessa Jowell: Although the Government Olympic Executive does not undertake capital expenditure on its own behalf, it authorises the payment of capital grant-in-aid to the Olympic Delivery Authority (ODA) by the Department for Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS). The latest estimates of the call on capital grant-in-aid for the four years 2008-09 to 2011-12 amount to:

	£ million
2008-09	958
2009-10	1148
2010-11	1095
2011-12	600

These estimates, totalling £3,801 million, are well within the funding provision for capital grant to the ODA over the same period i.e. £4,456 million.

The ODA also receives funding from the Olympic Lottery Distributor, the Greater London Authority and the London Development Agency. Details of contributions can be found in the London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games Annual Report—January 2009.

The capital grant-in-aid issued to the ODA by DCMS is funded by contributions from the Exchequer and from the Departments for Communities and Local Government and for Transport.

As I said in the annual report referred to above: our financial report shows that with a continued, disciplined search for savings and a sensible use of the contingency funds set aside to manage risks, we remain within budget despite the economic downturn. It will not be exceeded.

Departmental Training

Grant Shapps: To ask the Minister for the Olympics how much she has spent on media training in each year since her post was created; how many sessions have been provided; and which organisation provided such training. [268559]

Tessa Jowell: Nothing has been spent on media training since this post was created.

Olympic Games 2012: Contracts

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Minister for the Olympics what the monetary value was of contracts awarded to organisations in each region through the CompeteFor website at the latest date for which figures are available. [259334]

Tessa Jowell: To date the Olympic Delivery Authority (ODA) has awarded £3.5 billion worth of contracts to over 880 businesses, and 45 per cent. of the ODA's direct suppliers are based outside of London.

Procurement for the games is still at a relatively early stage, with the majority of the indirect, supply chain contracts not awarded directly by the ODA yet to become available. Procurement from the ODA's major contracts will flow down and create opportunities in their supply chains, and the London Organising Committee of the Olympic Games and Paralympic Games (LOCOG) procurement will begin to come on stream more fully this year, creating more opportunities for businesses to get involved.

CompeteFor was established as the mechanism by which contractors in London 2012's supply chains could open up their supply chains further than any other games previously, and give businesses across the country access to them, and any support they need to win them.

The vast majority of contracts advertised through CompeteFor will not be public procurements, but supply chain opportunities with London 2012's sub-contractors: as such we cannot control to whom they award contracts, or the location of these businesses.

The unique value of CompeteFor is also that it sign posts businesses to business support services, not only making them better able to compete for contracts in London 2012's supply chains but the wider £150 billion annual public procurement spend.

In addition, some of the ODA's contractors are now beginning to place their some their 'non-Olympic' opportunities on to the system, which offers the potential to open supply chains still further.

The London Development Agency encourages CompeteFor contracting businesses to disclose the value of contracts they award, but businesses have a legal right to refuse to do so. Of the 140 contracts that have now been awarded to suppliers registered on CompeteFor, 11 contractors have chosen not to disclose contract values. The figures given in the table consequently reflect the contract values that have been disclosed. Where values have not been disclosed this is indicated. In this table, the region is determined by the registered address of the company and in the case of large contractors in particular this may not necessarily reflect which region captures the values of contracts.

To date, over £19 million worth of contracts have been awarded to suppliers registered on CompeteFor across the UK. To 13 March 2009, just over 2,220 contracts had been placed on CompeteFor, with 292 opportunities posted on in the first two weeks of February alone. Over 1,800 of these are tenders which are currently in progress, and a good number are also in the pipeline, so this represents a limited proportion of the contracts that will be awarded.

CompeteFor has now been in operation for just over a year and my officials will be undertaking a review of its performance to date.

Region	*Number of contracts with undisclosed values*	*Value (£)*
Northern Ireland	—	0
Wales	—	0
North East	—	0
Scotland	—	10,000
South West	Plus 2 contracts with undisclosed values	24,500
North West	—	40,000
Yorkshire	—	66,000
East of England	Plus 3 contracts with undisclosed values	835,700
East Midlands	—	873,138
South East	—	2,079,780
West Midlands	Plus 1 contract with undisclosed values	7,173,000
London	Plus 5 contracts with undisclosed values	8,705,185

Because many companies work with regular suppliers, it is estimated that direct contractors will have around 80 per cent. of their supply chains already in place when they begin work on the project. Although these contracts will not appear on CompeteFor, UK businesses will stand to benefit. Where supply chains are not already in place, contractors are being encouraged to place as many as possible of their unallocated contract opportunities on CompeteFor, the London 2012 brokerage service launched in January 2008.

Olympic Games 2012: Facilities

Mr. Jamie Reed: To ask the Minister for the Olympics what plans there are to establish competitor training facilities for the London 2012 Olympics in *(a)* Cumbria and *(b)* Copeland constituency. [267944]

Tessa Jowell: The North West region has 68 facilities in the Pre Games Training Camp Guide produced by London Organising Committee of the Olympic and Paralympic Games (LOCOG) for the London 2012 Olympics, three of these designated training facilities are in Cumbria located in Barrow, Carlisle and Kendal.

There are currently no pre Games training camps listed in the LOCOG guide that are in my hon. Friend's constituency of Copeland.

Olympic Games 2012: Scotland

Pete Wishart: To ask the Minister for the Olympics pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Ayr, Carrick and Cumnock of 16 March 2009, *Official Report*, column 815W, on Olympic Games 2012: Scotland, what the monetary value is of the 13 contracts awarded by the Olympic Delivery Authority to firms based in Scotland. [268231]

Tessa Jowell: The Olympic Delivery Authority's (ODA) total spend to date with the 13 businesses registered in Scotland that it has directly awarded contracts to is approximately £1.8 million. These contracts do not include those awarded to sub-contractors. For example, only this week the ODA announced that work is now under way to lift the roof of the London 2012 Aquatics Centre, the steel for which is being rolled in Motherwell and two locations in England.

The ODA is currently undertaking research into businesses winning sub-contracts in its supply chains, with initial results due in the coming weeks.

CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

Departmental Computers

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many laptop computers have been provided to *(a)* Ministers, *(b)* special advisers and *(c)* civil servants in his Department in each year since 2005; and at what cost. [268268]

Mr. Sutcliffe: My Department only holds information for the current year. My Department has 89 laptops in use. One is allocated to a Minister, 88 are with civil servants and none are allocated to the special advisers. The cost to the public purse is approximately £1,500 per laptop.

Departmental Conferences

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport pursuant to the answer of 3 March 2009, *Official Report*, column 1406W, on the economic situation, what expenditure his Department incurred under each budget heading in respect of its Creative Economy Programme Ministerial Steering Board meeting held in December 2008. [267990]

Andy Burnham: The only cost for the Creative Economy Programme's Ministerial Steering Board in December 2008 was for refreshments. This cost was £88.

Departmental Mobile Phones

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much has been spent on *(a)* the purchase of and *(b)* bills for (i) BlackBerrys and (ii) other mobile telephones for (A) Ministers, (B) special advisers and (C) civil servants in his Department in each year since 2005. [268251]

Mr. Sutcliffe: My Department has incurred costs as follows:

£

	2006	2007	2008	2009
Blackberrys				
Device	3,601.61	5,744.39	7,258.67	1,564.04
Bill	43,852.91	57,504.07	65,673.11	5,789.81
Mobile phones				
Device	1,213.90	2,113.29	1,650.47	209.15
Bill	35,006.47	31,996.02	17,823.58	2,360.72

We do not hold the information regarding the amount spent on individuals.

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many *(a)* BlackBerrys and *(b)* other mobile telephones have been provided to (i) Ministers, (ii) special advisers and (iii) civil servants in his Department in each year since 2005. [268300]

Mr. Sutcliffe: My Department only holds information for the current year. My Department has 116 BlackBerrys and 60 mobile telephones. A breakdown of allocation is as follows:

	Ministers	Special advisers	Civil servants
Blackberrys	2	4	110
Mobile phones	1	0	59

Gambling

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many people have been *(a)* extradited and *(b)* prosecuted as a result of the Gambling Commission's mystery shopping pilots in those countries which appear on his Department's White List of countries permitted to advertise gambling services in the UK in the last three years. [267162]

Mr. Sutcliffe: There have been no extraditions or prosecutions in the last three years as a result of the Gambling Commission's mystery shopping pilots in those countries which appear on my Department's White List of countries permitted to advertise gambling services in the UK. The pilots took place before the Gambling Act 2005 came fully into effect. In the event of the Commission's rolling mystery shopping programme revealing any weaknesses in operators from such jurisdictions, the Commission would work with the regulator there to investigate and take the appropriate action.

Licensing Laws: Public Consultation

Mr. Betts: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what guidance his Department plans to issue to unitary authorities created under the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007 on consulting on licensing policies. [268093]

Mr. Sutcliffe: DCMS has no plans to lay revised guidance under section 182 of the Licensing Act 2003 before Parliament in connection with this issue. However, the Department has provided a steer to councils moving to unitary status, on the amalgamation of licensing policies. Where the affected councils have already consulted on and adopted identical policies in preparation for the move to a unitary authority, and these existing, identical policies will be consolidated into a single document, without any material changes, then DCMS advises that there will be no need to consult. However, councils are free to decide to inform relevant stakeholders.

Where substantial changes are made to identical policies before amalgamation or where existing policies are not identical, consultation would be required on the proposed single policy. In such instances, the Local Authorities Coordinators of Regulatory Services (LACORS) would encourage councils to undertake a full consultation, in line with the Government's code of practice on consultation. DCMS will continue to work with LACORS to respond to any licensing authority queries that may arise.

Parks: Greater London

Justine Greening: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport pursuant to the answer of 10 March 2009, *Official Report*, column 254W, on parks: Greater London, if he will place in the Library a copy of the Royal Parks Agency's *(a)* most recent research on visitor profiles and *(b)* 2006 in-depth study on park usage; and if he will make a statement. [268652]

Barbara Follett: The Royal Parks (TRP) advise that these reports are available on their website at:

http://www.royalparks.org.uk/about/publications/index.cfm#demographic_profile_2006

Copies of these reports will be deposited in the Libraries.

Public Expenditure

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much his Department *(a)* allocated and *(b)* spent on (i) sport, (ii) the arts and (iii) heritage in each year since 1997, expressed in 2008-09 prices. [263453]

Andy Burnham *[holding answer 13 March 2009]:* It is my Department's policy to publish details of funding spent, as opposed to funding allocated, to avoid confusion or potential double counting where end year flexibility has been applied or where funds have been transferred in year. The amount of Exchequer funding spent by DCMS and its NDPBs on arts, sport and heritage since 1997, at 2007-08 prices, is as follows:

£ million in 2007-08 prices

	Arts spend including central DCMS spend	*Sports spend including central DCMS spend*	*Heritage spend including Royal Parks and central DCMS spend*
1997-98	251.3	64.1	228.0
1998-99	249.2	61.6	210.2
1999-2000	281.0	63.1	219.0
2000-01	287.9	63.4	211.7
2001-02	297.9	75.2	217.5
2002-03	344.2	125.3	211.1
2003-04	408.0	87.6	425.6
2004-05	430.0	120.4	211.3
2005-06	434.0	124.2	207.3
2006-07	[1]442.9	174.4	[2]214.1
2007-08	425.9	193.9	211.7

[1] In 2006-07, Arts spend received an additional £5 million allocated in the 2004 spending review. Without applying the deflator or the additional allocation, the figures for 2006-07 and 2007-08 are £425.4 million and £425.9 million respectively.

[2] In 2006-07, English Heritage drew down £7.8 million capital end year flexibility for its relocation expenses compared with £1.8 million in 2007-08.

HM Treasury issues the deflator tables and does not publish 2008-09 figures until the tables are issued by the Office for National Statistics, usually in August. Therefore, the most up to date expression of DCMS's spend is in 2007-08 prices.

Sports

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what professional sporting events with *(a)* male and *(b)* female participants he has attended in an official capacity in the last 12 months. [267683]

Andy Burnham: The information is shown in the table.

	Professional sporting events with male participants	*Professional sporting events with female participants*
6 April 2008	FA Semi Cup Final	—
21 May 2008	Champions League Final	—
6 July 2008	Wimbledon Final	—
11 July 2008	England versus South Africa cricket	—
19 August 2008 (Beijing Olympics)	Triathlon and Madison Final	Track cycling and Athletics

	Professional sporting events with male participants	*Professional sporting events with female participants*
20 August 2008 (Beijing Olympics)	Athletics	10 km Marathon Swimming, Diving and 400 m Hurdles
21 August 2008 (Beijing Olympics)	BMX final and Triple Jump	BMX final
22 August 2008 (Beijing Olympics)	Canoeing and Athletics	Modern Pentathlon, Swimming, Hockey and Athletics
23 August 2008 (Beijing Olympics)	Diving, Football, and Athletics	Athletics
24 August 2008 (Beijing Olympics)	Boxing	—
30 August 2008	Rugby League Challenge Cup	—
29 March 2009	Everton Tigers versus Newcastle Eagles basketball	—

Swimming: Elderly

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport (1) what estimate he has made of the number of those over the age of 60 years who have participated in his Department's free swimming initiative to date; [267028]

(2) what steps his Department is taking to increase the levels of exercise undertaken by those over the age of 60; [267029]

(3) what steps his Department is taking to increase public awareness of his Department's free swimming initiatives. [267033]

Andy Burnham: From 1 April this year the Government's Free Swimming programme launched, enabling around 10 million people in England aged 60 or over will be able to swim for free in participating pools. We will be closely monitoring the impact of the scheme on levels of participation.

Free swimming will be delivered by nearly 300 local authorities in England. We have therefore provided participating local authorities with a branding and marketing toolkit to help them promote the programme locally. We will also continue to work with other Government Departments and stakeholders to promote the programme and help get more people swimming more often.

Talented Athlete Scholarship Scheme

Mr. Caborn: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport (1) how many scholars there are in the Talented Athlete Scholarship Scheme (TASS) in each region; and how many TASS scholars there are in *(a)* higher and *(b)* further education; [267321]

(2) to which sports the Talented Athlete Scholarship Scheme (TASS) applies; and how many TASS scholars are involved in each sport. [267322]

Andy Burnham: The Talented Athlete Scholarship Scheme (TASS) have advised that the following awards have been made:

Sport	*Awards*
Cricket	19
Football	40
Golf	39
Netball	40
Rugby League	25
Rugby Union	40
Squash	28
Waterskiing	25
Orienteering	28
Bobsleigh	6
Ice Hockey	33
Skeleton	19
Figure Skating	6
Short Track	16
Snowsport	25
Paralympic/Disability (all)	105
Winter Olympic/Paralympic 2012	35
Aquatics	18
Badminton	20
Canoe	22
Equestrian	24
Fencing	20
Hockey	24
Judo	23
Modern Pent	10
Rowing	21
Sailing	24
Triathlon	21
Volleyball	26
Individual Route	26

Notes:

1. Paralympic/disability (all) includes Swimming, Basketball, Skiing, Boccia, Fencing, Table Tennis, Tennis, Cricket, Powerlifting, Goalball, Football, Shooting and Equestrian.
2. Winter Olympic/Paralympic 2012 includes Figure Skating, Snowsports, Skeleton, Bobsleigh, Disability Skiing and Short Track.
3. Aquatics includes Diving, Synchro and Swimming.
4. Individual route includes Tennis, Table Tennis, Basketball, Gymnastics and Shooting.

TASS have advised they do not record information by regional or educational split and the information requested could be supplied only at disproportionate cost.

Television: Waste Disposal

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what steps his Department is taking on the disposal of television sets which are not ready for the digital switchover; and what expenditure has been incurred on such steps to date. [267023]

Ian Pearson: I have been asked to reply.

Digital switchover does not require disposal of any equipment, as an existing analogue television can normally be upgraded by adding a digital set-top box. There is some evidence from switchover in the Selkirk transmitter area in October/November 2008 that households took the opportunity to dispose of old equipment. However there are no reports from local authority recycling points that the levels of equipment disposed of caused any difficulty.

Television sets disposed of following digital switchover will be subject to regulations implementing the EU waste electrical and electronic equipment (WEEE) directive. The directive requires producers, or those acting on their behalf, to set up systems for treatment, recovery and environmentally sound disposal of WEEE.

There are currently no estimates of expenditure incurred to date on steps taken in this area. Industry has estimated that it costs around £3 to £5 per unit to dispose a standard television set.

WOMEN AND EQUALITY

Equal Pay

Julie Morgan: To ask the Minister for Women and Equality if she will issue guidance to employers on the provision of information to newly-appointed staff on *(a)* their company's gender pay gap and *(b)* their company's gender pay gap at the grade to which the new employee has been appointed. [267696]

Maria Eagle: In our response to consultation on the Equality Bill, we said that we would review progress on transparency and its contribution to the achievement of equality outcomes, and in the light of this, consider over the next five years, using existing legislation for greater transparency in company reporting on equality. This process is ongoing.

In addition, the forthcoming Equality Bill will ban secrecy clauses which prevent people discussing their own pay. The new single public sector equality duty will make our public bodies more transparent, and we want public bodies to report on important equality areas such as gender pay.

The guidance that employers might need as a result of these measures will need to be considered in due course.

DUCHY OF LANCASTER

Departmental Training

Grant Shapps: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how much has been spent on media training for each Minister in his Department in each of the last three years; how many sessions have been provided; and who provided the training. [268302]

Mr. Watson: Training is provided to Ministers as necessary in order to carry out their duties effectively under the "Ministerial Code".

TREASURY

Bank Services: Motor Vehicles

Mr. Newmark: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what recent reports he has received on banks withdrawing lending from businesses involved with the automotive industry. [265682]

Ian Pearson: Ministers and officials have regular meetings with banks and other financial institutions on a range of issues, including lending to businesses.

The Bank of England publishes statistics relating to lending, including lending to businesses, which are available at:

http://www.bankofengland.co.uk/statistics/index.htm.

Banks: Finance

Mr. Bone: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will make it his policy to consolidate the expenditure from the public purse on RBS and Lloyds Banking Group on the Government's balance sheet in accordance with international accounting standards. [266833]

Ian Pearson: *[holding answer 26 March 2009]:* The Treasury's 2008-09 resource accounts will be prepared in accordance with the Financial Reporting Manual ('FReM'). Spending, be it capital or resource, on the various financial stability interventions will be included in those accounts.

International Financial Reporting Standards will be adopted in 2009-10, under the technical accounting guidance in the International Financial Reporting Manual ('IFReM').

Dr. Cable: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many full-time equivalent employees of HM Revenue and Customs are working with *(a)* Lloyds Banking Group and *(b)* RBS. [268088]

Ian Pearson: HMRC employees may be seconded to work in an external organisation. No HMRC employees are currently seconded to *(a)* Lloyds Banking Group or *(b)* RBS.

Banks: Regulation

Mr. Baron: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what measures to amend the regulatory regime applying to *(a)* the banking sector and *(b)* banks which have received public money he is considering to minimise the risk of future failures in the sector. [253985]

Ian Pearson *[holding answer 3 February 2009]:* The Banking Act, which received Royal Assent on 12 February, provides new powers for the authorities to deal with failing banks, as well as providing for improved oversight and compensation arrangements.

The Government continue to assess future regulatory requirements for banking supervision. At the Chancellor's request, Lord Turner, Chairman of the Financial Services Authority, is reviewing financial services regulation in the UK. The Turner Review has now been published and can be accessed through the following link:

http://www.fsa.gov.uk/pubs/other/turner_review.pdf

The UK also continues to work closely with international partners. The UK, as President of the G20, will play a leading role in determining a global response to the challenges facing the banking sector.

Building Colleges for the Future Programme

Stephen Williams: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what recent discussions *(a)* he, *(b)* his Ministers and *(c)* his officials have had with representatives of the Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills on funding allocations for capital building projects in further education colleges to be made in the current spending review period. [268463]

Yvette Cooper: The Treasury has regular discussions with other Government Departments, including the Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills, on a wide range of public expenditure and policy issues, including the further education college capital programme.

Business: Government Assistance

Lorely Burt: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the *(a)* effect on tax revenue of and *(b)* number of employees affected by the introduction of the requirement that a company have fewer than 250 employees in order to grant options under the Enterprise Management Incentive scheme. [267719]

Ian Pearson: The information is as follows:

(a) The Revenue Effect

The estimate published in Budget 2008 included another measure.

At the time of the 2008 Budget the Exchequer yield from the employee restriction element of the Enterprise Management Incentive Scheme was estimated as:

	Revenue impact of the 250 employee limit to EMIs (£ million)
2008-09	0
2009-10	10
2010-11	20

(b) The Number of Employees Affected

The change in the rules did not affect employees to whom options had already been granted. As a result of the change, around 4,000 employees would no longer qualify for EMIs in the first year.

Child Care Tax Credit

Mrs. Maria Miller: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what his most recent estimate is of the level of take-up of the childcare element of the Working Tax Credit. [268639]

Mr. Timms: Take-up rate estimates for the child care element are not available.

However, estimates of the number of in-work families benefiting from the child care element of working tax credit, at selected dates, are published in Table 4.4 of the HMRC publication 'Child and Working Tax Credits Statistics' for each year. These publications are available on the HMRC website at:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/personal-tax-credits/cwtc-quarterly-stats.htm

Departmental Energy

Greg Clark: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what recent progress his Department has made towards its target for the energy efficiency per square metre of its Estate; and if he will make a statement. [266888]

Angela Eagle: I refer the hon. Gentleman to the answer given to the hon. Member for Ochil and South Perthshire (Gordon Banks) on 12 January 2009, *Official Report*, column 330W.

The Treasury will provide an update on progress in its annual departmental report for 2008-09 later this year.

Departmental Public Expenditure

Dr. Cable: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what his latest estimate is of his Department's capital expenditure in *(a)* 2008-09, *(b)* 2009-10, *(c)* 2010-11 and *(d)* 2011-12; and if he will make a statement. [268128]

Angela Eagle: The Treasury's forecast of capital spending within departmental expenditure limits (DEL) in 2008-09 is £5 million. Details of the Department's capital DEL budgets for forward years were shown in Table A5 of the 2007-08 Annual Report, Cm 7408, available from

www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/dep_perf_reports_index.htm

Government Departments: Procurement

Margaret Moran: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what guidance he has issued to Government Departments on the advertisement of procurement contracts on the website for www.supply2.gov.uk; and which *(a)* Departments and *(b)* agencies use the website. [261732]

Ian Pearson: BERR and HMT Ministers wrote jointly to all Departments in April 2008 to reiterate the Government's commitment to advertise procurement opportunities below the EU procurement thresholds on the www.supply2.gov.uk site. An event for departmental procurement officials in June 2008 was also held to raise awareness.

The following Departments and agencies currently advertise opportunities directly on to the portal:

Cabinet Office
Department for Children, Schools and Families
Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs
Home Office/Ministry of Justice
Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform
Department for Transport
Department for Work and Pensions
Crown Prosecution Service

The site also contains contract opportunities from other Departments and bodies by means of research and data feeds from other sites including the defence and health care sectors.

Government Securities

Mr. Amess: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the quantity of *(a)* index-linked and *(b)* conventional gilts planned to be auctioned by the Debt Management Office (DMO) in each of the next 12 months; what discussions he has had with the DMO on such auctions; and if he will make a statement. [268506]

Ian Pearson: In 2009-10 the Government plan to issue £127.2 and £20.7 billion in conventional and index-linked gilts respectively. Further details of the Government's provisional financing plans can be found in the provisional debt management report 2009-10. HM Treasury and the Debt Management Office worked together in the formulation of these plans, following usual practice. In line with updated fiscal forecast due to be published in Budget 2009, new issuance plans will be presented in the debt and reserves management report 2009-10 to be published alongside the Budget.

Mr. Amess: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much was received from auction of *(a)* index-linked and *(b)* conventional gilts by the Debt Management Office in each of the last 12 months. [268512]

Ian Pearson: The Debt Management Office raised £146.5 billion (cash) through 58 auctions and eight mini-tenders in 2008-09. This total was split between £126.7 and £19.7 billion in conventional and index-linked gilts respectively. The monthly breakdown is provided in the following table:

£ million

	Conventional	*Index-linked*
April 2008	6,026	2,001
May 2008	2,516	1,032
June 2008	5,561	1,961
July 2008	8,423	2,173
August 2008	2,222	1,149
September 2008	8,158	639
October 2008	18,726	2,259
November 2008	18,143	1022
December 2008	9,575	1,518
January 2009	15,051	1,828
February 2009	16,482	2,204
March 2009	15,531	2,252

Kaupthing Singer and Friedlander: Isle of Man

Mr. Sheerman: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will take steps to relax the restriction on assets held by Kaupthing Singer and Friedlander (Isle of Man) to allow that institution to make further refunds to its UK depositors. [261496]

Ian Pearson: Kaupthing Singer and Friedlander, Isle of Man, (KSF IoM) is not a subsidiary of Kaupthing Singer and Friedlander in the UK (KSF UK), but of the Icelandic parent company. KSF IoM is however a creditor of KSF UK.

KSF IoM is currently in provisional liquidation. KSF UK is in administration and there is a moratorium in place on the enforcement of all creditor claims. It is for the administrators of KSF UK in the first instance to determine whether it is appropriate to make a payment to any creditor. Under UK insolvency law, KSF IoM ranks like any other creditor of KSF.

Deposits with KSF IoM will be subject to the Isle of Man deposit compensation scheme. This scheme is administered by the Isle of Man authorities.

Lloyds TSB

Harry Cohen: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the amount of financial liability which has been assumed by the Exchequer as a result of the recent Lloyds TSB rescue package; and what assessment he has made of the implications of the package for the Government's policy on moral hazard. [263814]

Ian Pearson: Lloyds Banking Group (Lloyds) announced on 7 March their intention to participate in the asset protection scheme. Lloyds intends to protect £260 billion of eligible assets. Lloyds will pay a participation fee of £15.6 billion to the Treasury in capital.

The agreement will mean that in the event of a loss, Lloyds will bear a first loss amount after existing impairments of up to £25 billion. Thereafter, losses will be borne 90 per cent. by the Treasury and 10 per cent. by Lloyds.

The long-term impact on the public finances will be determined not by the value of the assets covered but by any net loss once fees, first losses, and recoveries are taken into account. It is impossible to set out costs for certain at this point. The scheme is designed in part to provide protection for assets that the market cannot value. HMT will keep 90 per cent. of recoveries until all the payments made by HMT have been reimbursed. The Government's investments will be held for no longer than is necessary to ensure stability and protect taxpayer interests.

Given the particular circumstances and the terms of Lloyds' participation in the APS the Government are content that they do not have any adverse implications moral hazard.

Monetary Policy

Mr. Amess: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what plans he has to adjust the level of the supply of money he plans for the next 12 months; what discussions he has had with the Governor of the Bank of England on this since January 2009; and if he will make a statement. [268511]

Ian Pearson: Decisions on the value of assets to be purchased using the creation of central bank reserves are a matter for the Monetary Policy Committee of the Bank of England. In a letter to the Governor of the Bank of England on 3 March 2009, the Chancellor authorised up to £150 billion of purchases: this is the maximum limit within which the MPC will determine the scale of its purchases each month.

Motor Vehicles: Government Assistance

Richard Burden: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what consideration he has given to the merits of tax flexibility to assist companies in the automotive sector in dealing with the effects of the economic downturn. [266377]

Mr. Timms: As part of a substantial package of support to help businesses deal with the effects of the economic downturn, the Chancellor announced in PBR 2008 that HMRC had introduced a new Business Payment Support Service. Businesses, across all parts of the economy, in temporary financial difficulty can spread their HMRC tax bill over a timetable they can afford. This has already helped over 4,900 firms in the automotive industry.

The Government have also announced that the Automotive Assistance Programme is now open for business. A seminar was held on 11 March to inform companies, banks and industry representatives about applying for help.

Further, following demand from the automotive sector for support under the "Train to Gain" scheme, the budget of £65 million has been increased substantially up to £100 million.

Automotive firms are also eligible for support from other Government programmes, including initiatives promoting bank lending to small and medium companies.

National Insurance Contributions

Mr. David Hamilton: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) for what reasons there is a six year limit for contributions to National Insurance shortfalls in relation to the state pension; [267751]

(2) what assessment he has made of the merits of *(a)* extending and *(b)* abolishing the deadlines for contributions to National Insurance shortfalls in relation to the state pension. [267752]

Mr. Timms: The National Insurance system operates on a pay as you go basis with the contributions that people pay now funding contributory benefits currently in payment and helping to fund the NHS. There are time limits for paying all Classes of contributions including Class 3 contributions. These are intended to prevent contributors from delaying payment of their contributions until they come to make their claims for benefit or pension entitlement.

The Government believe that the time limits for paying Class 3 contributions provide sufficient flexibility, and has no further plans to change them. The Government introduced changes in the Pensions Act 2008 to allow people, who reach State Pension age between 6 April 2008 and 5 April 2015 and already have 20 qualifying years, the opportunity to pay up to an additional six years of Class 3 contributions outside the most recent six tax years.

If the limits were to be extended or abolished the weekly rate of Class 3 contributions would have to be increased substantially as contributors could delay making payment until shortly before they started drawing their state pension.

Public Expenditure Surveys

Mr. Letwin: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will place in the Library a copy of each Public Expenditure Survey paper issued in 2008. [247225]

Yvette Cooper: A copy of each Public Expenditure Survey paper issued in 2008 has been placed in the Library.

Public Sector: Pensions

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much of the projected expenditure on public sector pensions shown in table 4.1 of the Long-term Public Finance Report he expects will be financed from employee contributions. [247951]

Yvette Cooper: As with all defined benefit pension schemes, regular actuarial valuations ensure that employees and employers pay a contribution rate appropriate to the level of expected benefits. Following Government reforms, major schemes have capped the employer contributions which will control taxpayers exposure to future cost pressures. In terms of financing the current pensions in payment, as with all Pay-As-You-Go schemes, current employee contributions are used to finance these pensions. The assumptions used in producing table 4.1 will be published in due course.

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer which public sector pension schemes' *(a)* liabilities are included in box 4.3 and *(b)* expenditure is included in the projections in table 4.1 of the 2008 Long-term Public Finance Report. [247952]

Yvette Cooper: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave him on 26 November 2008, *Official Report*, column 1911W, the same public service occupational pension schemes are used in producing box 4.3 and table 4.1 of the Long Term Public Finance Report 2008

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) what the *(a)* start and *(b)* end date of the 50-year period is over which he estimated that reforms to the Civil Service, NHS and teachers' pension schemes would save £13 billion; [247953]

(2) what discount rate was used to estimate the net present value of savings from reforms to the Civil Service, NHS and teachers' pension schemes; [247958]

(3) if he will estimate the net present value of savings made by reforms to *(a)* the Police Pension Scheme, *(b)* the Armed Forces Pension Scheme and *(c)* the Firefighters' Pension Scheme on the same basis as he estimated that reforms to the Civil Service, NHS and teachers' pension schemes would save £13 billion over 50 years; [247962]

(4) with reference to the Answer to the hon. Member for Yeovil of 31 October 2006, *Official Report*, column 317W, on public sector pensions, how he calculated the net present value of savings over a 50-year period without first estimating the savings that would be achieved in each year; [248012]

(5) whether his estimate that reforms to the Civil Service, NHS and teachers' pension schemes would deliver savings with a net present value of £13 billion over 50 years is expressed in 2008 prices; [248213]

(6) what assumptions he has made about the dates of commencement of reforms to the Civil Service, NHS and teachers' pension schemes; when he made his estimate that such reforms would save £13 billion over a 50-year period; and if he will revise his estimate on the basis of the dates on which the reforms took effect; [248974]

(7) what account his estimate of a £13 billion saving from reforms to the Civil Service, NHS and teachers' pension schemes takes of *(a)* the net present value of cashflow savings on benefits paid out net of employee contributions paid in during the 50-year period and *(b)* the net present value of the reduction in the value of benefits accrued relative to employee contributions paid during the 50-year period; what other factors his estimate takes into account; and if he will make a statement. [248975]

Yvette Cooper: To assist discussions of modernisation reforms to the pension schemes for the NHS, teachers and civil service in 2005, an indicative estimate of £13 billion was calculated as the potential net saving in employer costs for these three schemes over a 50-year period from 2006. The estimates were based on approximate methodologies to indicate the savings that might result from the proposals then under discussion and were heavily rounded to allow for factors such as the possibility of a few years variation in start dates.

The estimate was calculated as at 2005, using 2005-06 prices, to show the amount of employer contribution savings over a 50-year period, converted to a capitalised value. This reflected savings in the value of benefits built up over the 50-year period, not cashflow savings on benefits paid out over that period. The estimate took into account expected membership of the pension schemes and a net discount rate of 3.5 per cent. per annum in excess of prices.

The subsequent packages that were actually introduced included further reforms, such as cost sharing and cost capping mechanisms, to limit employer costs. The £13 billion calculations are now obsolete and revised estimates of the capitalised savings and extensions of the estimates to other schemes on the assumptions used in 2005 could be provided only at disproportionate cost. Instead, the significant level of savings that are already being delivered by the scheme reforms were described in my answer to the hon. Member of 26 November 2008, *Official Report*, column 1909W.

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) what changes to the number of active members in *(a)* the NHS Pension Scheme, *(b)* the Teachers' Pension Scheme, *(c)* the Principal Civil Service Pension Scheme, *(d)* the Armed Forces Pension Scheme and *(e)* the Police Pension Scheme are assumed to take place over the projection period shown in table 4.1 of the 2008 Long-term Public Finance Report; [247968]

(2) what assumed mortality rates for members of public sector pension schemes were used to calculate the figures in table 4.1 of the 2008 Long-term Public Finance Report; and whether these differ from the assumed rates underpinning population projections; [247971]

(3) what average life expectancy was assumed for *(a)* male and *(b)* female members of the (i) NHS Pension Scheme, (ii) Teachers' Pension Scheme, (iii) Principal Civil Servants Pension Scheme and (iv) Armed Forces Pension Scheme aged 65 in (A) 2007, (B) 2017, (C) 2027, (D) 2037, (E) 2047 and (F) 2057 in calculating the figures in table 4.1 of the March 2008 Long-term Public Finance Report; [247973]

(4) what average life expectancy was assumed for *(a)* male and *(b)* female members of the Police Pension Scheme aged 65 in (i) 2007, (ii) 2017, (iii) 2027, (iv) 2037, (v) 2047 and (vi) 2057 when calculating the figures in table 4.1 of the March 2008 Long-term Public Finance Report; [247977]

(5) what differences there are between the assumptions on in-service mortality for members of public sector pension schemes underpinning the figures in table 5.1 of the 2006 Long-term Public Finance Report and those underpinning the figures in table 4.1 of the 2008 Long-term Public Finance Report; [247980]

(6) how many withdrawals per 10,000 members of staff were assumed for *(a)* males and *(b)* females aged (i) 25, (ii) 30, (iii) 35, (iv) 40, (v) 45, (vi) 50, (vii) 55 and (viii) 60 in compiling table 4.1 of the 2008 Long-term Public Finance Report; and whether the same assumptions were used for members of each pension scheme; [248121]

(7) what assumption on salary inflation underpins the figures in table 4.1 of the 2008 Long-term Public Finance Report; [248122]

(8) what assumption on salary progression above salary inflation for *(a)* males and *(b)* females underpins the estimates of public sector pension costs in table 4.1 of the 2008 Long-term Public Finance Report; and whether different assumptions were used in respect of members of different pension schemes; [248123]

(9) what changes were made to the assumed new entrant profiles for *(a)* the NHS Pension Scheme, *(b)* the Principal Civil Service Pension Scheme, *(c)* the Teachers' Pension Scheme, *(d)* the Armed Forces Pension Scheme and *(e)* the Police Pension Scheme, taking account of (i) age, (ii) sex and (iii) salary at recruitment affecting the assumptions underpinning the projected public service pension costs in table 5.1 of the 2006 Long-term Public Finance Report and table 4.1 of the 2008 Long-term Public Finance Report; [248202]

(10) what assumed rates of ill-health retirement for *(a)* males and *(b)* females at ages (i) 25, (ii) 30, (iii) 35, (iv) 40, (v) 45, (vi) 50, (vii) 55 and (viii) 60 underpin projections for expenditure on public sector pensions in table 4.1 of the 2008 Long-term Public Finance Report; [248203]

(11) what assumptions were made about *(a)* the terms on which members of the Principal Civil Service Pension Scheme will be able to commute pension for tax-free cash, *(b)* the proportion who take the maximum cash available and *(c)* the extent to which other members use commutation options for the projected expenditure on public sector pensions detailed in table 4.1 of the 2008 Long-term Public Finance Report; [248204]

(12) whether the age at retirement assumptions underpinning the projected public sector pension costs in table 4.1 of the 2008 Long-Term Public Finance Report are the same as those underpinning table 5.1 of the 2006 Long-Term Public Finance Report; [248214]

(13) whether the earnings growth assumptions used to calculate the public service pension costs shown in table 4.1 of the 2008 Long-term Public Finance Report are the same as those underpinning the equivalent figures in the 2006 Long-term Public Finance Report; [248235]

(14) whether assumptions about rates of ill-health retirement amongst members of public service pension schemes underpinning table 4.1 of the 2008 Long-Term Public Finance Report are the same as those underpinning table 5.1 of the 2006 Long-Term Public Finance Report; [248236]

(15) whether the figures in table 4.1 of the 2008 Long-Term Public Finance Report assume that members of public sector pension schemes who retire owing to ill-health experience the same mortality rates as other members; [248237]

(16) what updates to the analysis contained in the 2006 cashflow projections for unfunded public service pension schemes he commissioned from *(a)* the Government Actuary's Department and *(b)* other sources to inform the March 2008 Long-term Public Finance Report; and if he will place in the Library a copy of each update; [249910]

(17) what assumptions about the rates of withdrawal from service for members of unfunded public sector pension schemes were made in respect of *(a)* the 2006 Long-term Public Finance Report and *(b)* the 2008 Long-term Public Finance Report. [249065]

Yvette Cooper: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave him on 26 November 2008, *Official Report*, column 1912W. We expect that the Government Actuary's Department will publish this paper alongside the Long Term Public Finance report later this year.

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will break down the projected public expenditure on public service pensions shown in table 4.1 of the 2008 Long-term Public Finance Report to show expenditure attributable to *(a)* benefits already accrued and *(b)* future benefits on the same basis as in box 5.1 of the 2006 Long-term Public Finance Report. [247869]

Yvette Cooper: This answer could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what allowance was made for the implementation of Agenda for Change and the new contracts for GPs and hospital consultants when assuming rates of salary progression in order to calculate the figures in table 4.1 of the Long-term Public Finance Report. [248124]

Yvette Cooper: The assumed rates of salary progression used to calculate the figures in table 4.1 of the Long-Term Public Finance Report were based on the experience of members of public service pension schemes, as reported in the actuarial valuations of the schemes. The Agenda for Change and GP contracts had not been fully implemented at the time of the NHS Pension Scheme valuation as at 31 March 2004 (although an allowance for the effects of pay modernisation was made), which was the latest valuation available for setting these assumptions.

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether the mortality rates assumed to apply to existing active, deferred and pension members of public sector pension schemes in order to calculate the figures in table 4.1 of the Long-term Public Finance Report are the same as those used to estimate the stock of liabilities in box 4.3. [248211]

Yvette Cooper: The estimate of the stock of liabilities of the unfunded public service pension schemes in box 4.3 is based on the individual public service pension scheme resource accounts; the mortality rates used are set with regard to the experience of the relevant scheme. The spending projections shown in table 4.1 are based on average assumptions consistent with other spending projections in the Long Term Public Finance Report 2008.

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what assumptions were made about *(a)* the proportion of members in public sector pension schemes who are in relationships that could potentially give rise to a survivor's pension and *(b)* the average age difference between pension scheme members and their potential survivors in compiling the figures in table 4.1 of the March 2008 Long-term Public Finance Report. [248212]

Yvette Cooper: The assumptions about the proportion of members in public service pension schemes who are in relationships that give rise to a survivor's pension and the average age difference between pension scheme members and their potential survivors used in compiling the figures in table 4.1 of the March 2008 Long-Term Public Finance Report were based on the experience of the most significant work groups within the larger schemes.

Small Businesses: North East

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what steps his Department has taken to improve access for businesses in the north east to the Small Business Finance Scheme. [245010]

Ian Pearson: Businesses across the UK have access to comprehensive range of support through Real Help Now, including the Enterprise Finance Guarantee Scheme and the Capital for Enterprise Fund. These schemes can be accessed through

http://www.businesslink.gov.uk/realhelp.

SMEs in my hon. Friend's constituency may wish to be aware that the regional development agency One NorthEast has unveiled a £10 million package of support to help regional businesses through current economic difficulties, which is being delivered via Business Link in the North East.

Stamp Duty Land Tax

Grant Shapps: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) what revenue has accrued to the Exchequer from stamp duty land tax receipts in each year since 1997 at 2008-09 prices; [266469]

(2) what revenue has accrued to the Exchequer from stamp duty land tax receipts in each of the last four quarters for which figures are available. [266470]

Ian Pearson: Stamp duty receipts, covering receipts from stamp duty land tax and stamp taxes on share transactions, are given in the following table at 2008 prices, for each calendar year since 1997:

	Receipts (£ million)[1]
1997	4,190
1998	5,650
1999	7,460
2000	10,290
2001	8,840
2002	8,680
2003	8,220
2004	9,820
2005	10,710
2006	15,420
2007	13,710
2008	9,490

[1] Revalued to 2008 prices using the GDP deflator

Stamp duty receipts for the last four quarters for which information has been published is available at:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/tax_receipts/table1-3.pdf

Taxation: Business

Mr. Ian Taylor: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many fines have been imposed on small and medium-sized companies for late payment of *(a)* value added tax and *(b)* corporation tax in the last (i) six and (ii) 12 months. [266811]

Mr. Timms: There is, currently, no penalty for late payment of corporation tax. HM Revenue and Customs issued the following number of VAT default surcharges in the last six and 12 month periods for which information is available.

	Number
1 January to 31 December 2008	419,521
1 July to 31 December 2008	230,237

Information is not readily available on VAT default surcharges issued to businesses of different size and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

VAT

Mrs. May: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the answer of 10 March 2009, *Official Report*, column 263W, on VAT, what estimate he has made of the financial effect on *(a)* the Exchequer and *(b)* households, *(c)* businesses and *(d)* other groups of the temporary reduction in value added tax combined with increases in alcohol and tobacco duty. [illegible]

Mr. Timms: Estimates of the revenue impact on the Exchequer from changes to VAT, alcohol duties and tobacco duties as announced at pre-Budget report 2008 are published in table B5 of the pre-Budget report 2008.

It is estimated that 70 per cent. of the impact from the VAT rate change is accounted for by households and that 100 per cent. of duty rate changes are passed through to households.

The relative sizes of the relevant tax changes mean that the overall shares supplied in the answer of 10 March 2009, *Official Report*, column 263W for VAT alone are largely unchanged when combined with the alcohol and tobacco elements.

LEADER OF THE HOUSE

Departmental Lost Property

Paul Holmes: To ask the Leader of the House what the cost of replacing property lost or stolen from her Office was in each year since 1997. [268162]

Chris Bryant: The cost of replacing property lost or stolen from the Office of the Leader of the House of Commons since June 2007 is £29.99.

The Office of the Leader of the House of Commons joined the Cabinet Office in 2007. Information prior to this is available only at disproportionate cost.

DEFENCE

Afghanistan: Drugs

Mrs. Curtis-Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what joint UK/US initiatives for which his Department is responsible are in place to tackle the production and distribution of drugs. [266892]

Mr. Hutton: The UK and US have established the Joint Narcotics Analysis Centre (JNAC) and the Inter-agency Operations Co-ordination Centre (IOCC), which aim to improve law enforcement co-ordination mechanisms and to tackle the drugs trade in Afghanistan. The UK also supports the US-led Joint Inter Agency Task Force (South), which comprises the US plus 13 partner nations, and which conducts inter-agency operations against illicit trafficking in the Western Atlantic, Caribbean, and Eastern Pacific high seas.

Afghanistan: Peacekeeping Operations

Mr. Holloway: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many incidents designated as troops in contact were recorded in each month of Operation *(a)* Herrick 4, *(b)* Herrick 5, *(c)* Herrick 6 and *(d)* Herrick 7. [268211]

Mr. Hutton *[holding answer 1 April 2009]:* The Ministry of Defence has recently completed a review of the data required to answer this question, and has revised the manner in which we classify and present data to ensure consistency.

The numbers of troops in contact events, regardless of the instigator, involving the International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) and insurgents in Helmand province recorded by Task Force Helmand for each month from April 2006 to March 2008 are as follows.

	2006[1]	2007[1]	2008[1]
January	—	60	70
February	—	100	70
March	—	140	80
April	0	70	—
May	0	120	—
June	10	110	—
July	120	130	—
August	100	130	—
September	100	130	—
October	40	90	—
November	40	110	—
December	50	130	—

[1] Rounded to 10

ISAF forces operating in Helmand come from a number of different nations, which often operate closely alongside each other and alongside Afghan army and police units. The environment in which forces are operating makes it extremely difficult precisely to distinguish between incidents initiated by insurgent forces and those initiated by ISAF.

These data are based on information derived from a number of sources and can only be an estimate, not least because of the difficulties in ensuring a consistent interpretation of the basis for collating statistics in a complex fast-moving multinational operational environment.

Armed Forces: Surveys

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what recent steps his Department has taken in relation to the continuous attitude survey for *(a)* armed forces families and *(b)* reserve forces; and if he will place in the Library a copy of the most recent survey reports. [251948]

Mr. Kevan Jones: Each service conducts its own families' survey but the distribution, collection and analysis of the data are not standard across the services. It is our intention to review the families' surveys with the aim of establishing a more consistent method of data collection. The surveys are already available in the Library of the House.

Similarly, the reserves' surveys are separately conducted by each service with the data used to inform each service's personnel policy. Again, the reserves' surveys are not standardised so it can be difficult to get an accurate feel for tri-service issues and trends that may need addressing. It is also our intention to review the reserves' surveys with the aim of establishing a more consistent method of data collection and publication.

Armoured Fighting Vehicles

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether Snatch 2A vehicles have been withdrawn from service outside the wire on operations. [264959]

Mr. Hutton: Senior Operational Commanders have confirmed that there remains a critical need for a light protected patrol vehicle such as the Snatch Land Rover, which can reach areas that are inaccessible to heavier vehicles. The introduction of Snatch Vixen and the procurement of the tactical support vehicles announced in October 2008, will enable us to continue reducing the scope of the Snatch 2A vehicle's role until it is used only within our camps. To comment further would, or would be likely to prejudice the capability, effectiveness or security of the armed forces.

Arms Trade

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what criteria the Government uses when determining to which countries arms may be sold; and if he will make a statement. [267685]

Ian Pearson: I have been asked to reply.

All export licence applications are considered on a case by case basis against the Consolidated EU and National Arms Export Licensing Criteria. The Consolidated Criteria can be viewed on the BERR website at:

http://www.berr.gov.uk/whatwedo/europeandtrade/strategicexportcontrol/legislation/consolidated-criteria/page46288.html

Christmas

Mr. Rob Wilson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether it is his Department's policy to offer staff *(a)* additional leave entitlement for Christmas shopping and *(b)* Christmas bonus payments. [262818]

Mr. Kevan Jones: The MOD does not offer staff additional leave for Christmas shopping or Christmas bonus payments.

Defence Medical Services: Manpower

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many *(a)* psychologists, *(b)* psychiatrists, *(c)* mental health nurses and *(d)* occupational therapists Defence Medical Services employed in each year since 1997. [257681]

Mr. Kevan Jones: The following table illustrates the trained strength figures in the appropriate specialties:

	DMS civilian staff		*DMS military staff*	
	Occupational therapists[1]	*Psychologists*[2]	*Psychiatrists*[3,4]	*Mental health nurses*[3,4]
1997	6	1	[5]—	[5]—
1998	6	2	13	76
1999	6	3	[5]—	[5]—
2000	6	5	14	75
2001	6	6	11	78
2002	8	7	10	77
2003	8	6	11	83
2004	8	5	10	98
2005	11	3	12	97
2006	11	5	10	96
2007	13	6	13	77
2008	14	10	14	105

[1] The Defence Medical Rehabilitation Centre at Headley Court employs civilian occupational therapists (OTs), some of whom have cognitive behavioural therapy (CBT) training as part of their overall clinical portfolio. The total numbers of civilian OTs employed in each year are shown. The Defence Medical Services do not employ mental health occupational therapists (MHOTs). Our current community-based mental health provision is occupationally oriented and aims to manage patients in their work/home environment. This is done by a multi-disciplinary team consisting of psychiatrists and mental health nurses, with access to both clinical psychologists and mental health social workers.

[2] MOD does not employ uniformed clinical psychologists; the numbers shown are civilians only.

[3] Psychiatrist and mental heath nurse numbers shown are for trained military staff only and exclude staff in command staff posts and trained military staff who are studying towards further qualifications.

[4] MOD also employs civilian consultant psychiatrists and mental health nurses; as at September 2008, there were 14 civilian psychiatrists and 56 civilian mental health nurses. Historical data is not maintained centrally, and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

[5] Data not available.

Note:

All data are for year ending April.

Departmental Public Expenditure

Dr. Cable: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what his latest estimate is of his Department's capital expenditure in *(a)* 2008-09, *(b)* 2009-10, *(c)* 2010-11 and *(d)* 2011-12; and if he will make a statement. [268117]

Mr. Hutton: The Government published updated capital DEL in the pre-Budget report in November 2008. This information can be found at the following link:

www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/prebud_pbr08_repindex.htm

The figures for the Ministry of Defence provided on page 214 are: *(a)* 2008-09—£8.0 billion; *(b)* 2009-10—£8.2 billion; and *(c)* 2010-11—£8.9 billion.

The Government have not set Department's capital DEL budgets for beyond 2011-12. Capital DEL budgets for 2011-12 and beyond are a matter for the next spending review. The Government do, however, publish projections for public sector net investment (PSNI) over the forecast period at Budget and pre-Budget reports.

Government Departments: Security

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what security checks his Department undertakes on independent security assessors appointed to positions in *(a)* the Cabinet Office and *(b)* other departments. [267977]

Mr. Kevan Jones: The Defence Vetting Agency undertakes national security vetting for employees of a number of Government Departments, not including the Cabinet Office, where appropriate to the needs of those Departments.

NATO: EU Defence Policy

Mrs. Curtis-Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence when he last met the NATO Secretary General to discuss the EU-NATO relations as they relate to defence matters; and if he will make a statement. [266893]

Mr. Hutton: I discussed the importance of NATO-EU co-operation with the NATO's North Atlantic Council and the Secretary-General on 4 February 2009. In addition, NATO-EU co-operation is regularly discussed at NATO Defence Ministers' meetings, the most recent of which was on 19-20 February.

Effective NATO-EU relations are essential in order to deliver both capability development and effective operations on the ground. The importance of this co-operation is highlighted in the European Security Strategy and NATO's Comprehensive Political Guidance.

Nuclear Disarmament

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what assessment he has made of the effect of France rejoining the military structure of NATO on *(a)* UK and *(b)* NATO policy on nuclear disarmament. [267638]

Mr. Hutton: The UK regularly discusses multilateral nuclear disarmament issues with France as well as other NATO nations and nuclear weapon states. I am not aware of any link between France rejoining NATO's Integrated Military Structure and the UK policy on multilateral nuclear disarmament.

Nuclear Submarines

Angus Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) what collisions involving a UK nuclear powered submarine and *(a)* another submarine, *(b)* another naval vessel, *(c)* a private vessel and *(d)* a merchant vessel have taken place since 1979; [265175]

(2) what grounding incidents involving UK nuclear-powered submarines have taken place since 1979. [265177]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The Royal Navy has no records of collisions between nuclear powered submarines and other submarines and naval vessels, other than the recent incident involving HMS Vanguard and the French submarine Le Triomphant.

The full list of incidents of collisions involving Royal Navy nuclear powered submarines for which the Royal Navy holds records is as follows:

HMS Superb grounding in the Red Sea in May 2008.

HMS Tireless struck an iceberg while on Arctic Patrol in May 2003.

HMS Trafalgar grounded on Fladda-chuain in November 2002.

HMS Triumph grounded in November 2000.

HMS Victorious grounded, while surfaced, on Skelmorlie Bank in November 2000.

HMS Trenchant grounded off the coast of Australia in July 1997.

HMS Repulse grounded in the North Channel in July 1996.

HMS Trafalgar grounded off the Isle of Skye in July 1996.

HMS Valliant grounded in the North Norwegian Sea in March 1991.

HMS Trenchant snagged the fishing vessel Antares in the Arran Trench in November 1990.

HMS Spartan grounded west of Scotland in October 1989.

HMS Sceptre snagged the fishing vessel Scotia in November 1989.

HMS Conqueror collided with the yacht Dalriada off the Northern Irish coast in July 1988.

All the vessels, apart from HMS Superb, which was decommissioned in October 2008, were repaired and returned to service.

Information is not held centrally for the period 1979-88 and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Angus Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what fires have taken place on UK nuclear powered submarines since 1979. [265176]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The records of fire incidents onboard UK nuclear submarines are not held centrally prior to 1 January 1987. Since this date the Royal Navy records provide the following information:

213 small scale fires, that are categorised as a localised fire such as a minor electrical fault creating smoke dealt with quickly and effectively using minimal onboard resources.

21 medium scale fires that were generally categorised as a localised fire such as a failure of mechanical equipment creating smoke and flame requiring use of significant onboard resources.

Three fires occurred while the submarines involved were in naval bases, requiring both ship and external resources.

RAF Fairford

Colin Challen: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what safeguards have been put in place to prevent future fuel spillages by US base authorities at RAF Fairford. [267289]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: Fluid level sensors are to be installed in each of the eight pump rooms together with an automated warning system to alert the fuels control room of any problems. The operator procedures will also be altered to ensure that regular visits and inspections of the pump rooms take place.

USA: Military Bases

Colin Challen: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence with reference to the answer to the hon. Member for Lewes of 21 June 2004, *Official Report*, column 1078, on RAF Menwith Hill, for which military bases on British soil hon. Members seeking to visit would require the permission of the US Administration; and if he will issue guidance to hon. Members on procedures for gaining approval for such visits. [268456]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: There are no military bases on British soil for which approval is required from the US Administration for hon. Members to visit.

Wellington Barracks Bury

Mr. Chaytor: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what plans he has to develop the site of the former Wellington Barracks in Bury; and if he will make a statement. [266518]

Mr. Kevan Jones: All but around half an acre of the former barracks site was sold to Bury Corporation in the 1960s. The Ministry of Defence (MOD) has no current plans to develop the retained site, which includes the Lancashire Fusiliers Museum, Regimental Headquarters, an Army Careers Information Office, a building leased to the trustees of the Lancashire Fusiliers Regimental Association and a memorial owned by the trustees of the museum.

However, officials are in discussions with the trustees of the Fusiliers new museum, located on another site, in regard to the possible transfer there of those tasks which remain on the barracks site.

Only if the retained MOD site can be vacated will the Department seek to establish whether alternative MOD or wider Government requirements exist and consider disposal.

WORK AND PENSIONS

Crisis Loans: Eastbourne

Mr. Waterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people resident in Eastbourne constituency received a crisis loan in each month for the last two years. [267250]

Kitty Ussher: The information requested is not available. Information on Crisis Loan awards is not held by parliamentary constituency, only by Jobcentre Plus Social Fund budget area.

Departmental Buildings

Dr. Pugh: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what buildings are owned or operated by his Department under a private finance initiative (PFI) arrangement; and which companies are involved with each such PFI arrangement. [267404]

Jonathan Shaw: In 1998 the Department entered into a 20-year private finance initiative deal with Trillium known as the PRIME contract. A list of the 1,005 buildings currently operated under the PRIME contract has been placed in the Library.

Departmental Public Expenditure

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) what *(a)* capital and *(b)* resource funds his Department has brought forward from its (i) 2009-10 and (ii) 2010-11 budgets for use in (A) 2008-09 and (B) 2009-10; and what schemes this funding is being used to support; [267417]

(2) what capital funding his Department has brought forward from its *(a)* 2009-10 and *(b)* 2010-11 budgets for use in (i) 2008-09 and (ii) 2009-10; and to what ends this funding has been allocated. [266207]

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much capital spending is planned to be brought forward by his Department to *(a)* 2008-09 and *(b)* 2009-10. [266298]

Jonathan Shaw *[holding answer 27 March 2009]*: The Department has not brought forward any capital or resource funding from 2009-10 or 2010-11 budgets for use in earlier years.

Departmental Publications

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate he has made of the *(a)* production and printing and *(b)* other costs to his Department of producing its most recent (i) departmental annual report and (ii) autumn performance report. [266683]

Jonathan Shaw: The cost of production and printing incurred by the Department, exclusive of VAT, for the 2008 departmental report were £26,875. The estimate for the 2008 autumn performance report is £8,344.

With regard to other costs, such as staff time, the information could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Drugs: Rehabilitation

Paul Holmes: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate he has made of the cost to the public purse for the requirement of drug users to undertake *(a)* rehabilitation plans, *(b)* substance related assessment and *(c)* relevant tests under the proposals contained in schedule 1(a) to the Welfare Reform Bill in their first full year of operation. [261448]

Mr. McNulty: We aim to pilot and evaluate the new approach to employment support for problem drug users set out in the Welfare Reform Bill in a small number of Jobcentre Plus districts. The detail of those pilots, including any additional resources that will be made available, is still in development at this early stage.

Housing Benefit

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what recent estimate he has made of the number and percentage of households in the private rented sector which received housing benefit in each of the last three years. [266319]

Kitty Ussher: Information for the last three years for which data are available on the number of privately rented households in receipt of housing benefit has been supplied along with the overall numbers of households in the private rented sector. As the figures have been drawn from different sources and are based on different time scales the percentage of households receiving housing benefit in the privately rented sector has not been presented.

The available information is in the tables.

Number of households in the private rented sector receiving housing benefit in Great Britain, 2005-07

As at August each year	*Private households receiving housing benefit*
2005	805,550
2006	861,000
2007	940,600

Notes:
1. The data refer to benefit units, which may be a single person or a couple.
2. The figures have been rounded to the nearest 10.
3. Figures for any non-responding authorities have been estimated.
4. Housing benefit figures exclude any extended payment cases.
5. From February 2007, DWP has been collecting more detailed HB/CTB data electronically from local authorities. Over time this will improve the accuracy, timeliness and level of detail available in the published statistics. However, until the new data have been fully quality assured to National Statistics standards, the most recent summary statistics available are for August 2007.

Source:
Housing Benefit and Council Tax Benefit Management Information System Quarterly 100 per cent. caseload stock-count taken in August 2005 to August 2007

Number of dwellings rented privately or with a job or business: Great Britain, 2005-2007

	All households privately rented or with a job or business
March 2005	2,866,000
March 2006	3,035,000
March 2007	3,234,000

Notes:
1. Estimates for the overall number of private households are based on local authority and Registered Social Landlord dwelling counts, and the Labour Force Survey (LFS). Estimates may not be strictly comparable between periods.
2. The figures have been rounded to the nearest thousand.

Source:
http://www.communities.gov.uk/documents/housing/xls/table-102.xls

Willie Rennie: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people in each region have received housing benefit based on local reference rents in each of the last four years. [267786]

Kitty Ussher *[holding answer 30 March 2009]*: The available information is in the table.

Number of housing benefit recipients assessed under local reference rents by Government office region: 2003-06

	2003	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*
Great Britain	555,680	621,720	675,960	703,090
North East	31,160	31,440	32,440	35,170
North West	87,500	94,280	97,370	100,340
Yorkshire and the Humber	47,410	51,120	52,940	48,020
East Midlands	28,660	34,010	36,770	42,450
West Midlands	40,500	40,770	43,460	49,150
East	39,370	44,4[illegible]0	50,660	55,320
London	78,660	99,560	115,540	125,590
South East	68,760	80,420	91,010	91,120
South West	58,380	63,170	69,890	75,900
Wales	36,510	36,890	38,240	40,360
Scotland	38,790	45,680	47,630	39,680

Notes:
1. The data refer to benefit units, which may be a single person or a couple.
2. The figures have been rounded to the nearest 10.
3. The totals for Great Britain include estimates for local authorities that have not responded.
4. Housing benefit figures exclude any extended payment cases.
5. Figures may not sum due to rounding.
6. Statistics on tenancy schemes within the deregulated private rented sector are not currently available beyond November 2006 due to concerns over the reliability of recent data.
7. From February 2007, the Department for Work and Pensions has been collecting more detailed housing benefit and council tax benefit data electronically from local authorities. Over time this will improve the accuracy, timeliness and level of detail available in the published statistics. However, the new data have not yet have been fully quality assured to National Statistics standards.

Source:
Housing Benefit and Council Tax Benefit Management Information System Quarterly 100 per cent. caseload stock-count taken in November 2003-06

Housing Benefit: Elderly

Mr. Waterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what his estimate is of the number of individuals in *(a)* private rented and *(b)* social housing over the age of 65 years who received housing benefit in each year since 2000. [267278]

Kitty Ussher: The available information is in the following table.

Number of recipients of housing benefit in Great Britain by age and tenure: 2000-04

			Private	*Social Housing*	
		All housing benefit recipients	*Private tenants*	*Local authority tenants*	*Registered social landlord tenants*
2000	All Ages	4,033,000	815,000	2,288,000	931,000
	Aged 65 and over	1,423,000	162,000	941,000	320,000
2001	All Ages	3,874,000	743,000	2,133,000	998,000
	Aged 65 and over	1,[illegible]7,000	155,000	893,000	349,000
2002	All Ages	3,813,000	719,000	2,038,000	1,056,000
	Aged 65 and over	1,367,000	147,000	847,000	373,000
2003	All Ages	3,796,000	715,000	1,838,000	1,244,000
	Aged 65 and over	1,346,000	147,000	756,000	444,000
2004	All Ages	3,879,000	744,000	1,808,000	1,328,000
	Aged 65 and over	1,362,000	150,000	738,000	474,000

Notes:
1. The figures are based on a 1 per cent. sample and are therefore subject to a degree of sampling variation.
2. The data refers to benefit units, which may be a single person or a couple.

Source:
Housing Benefit and Council Tax Benefit Management Information System. Annual 1 per cent. sample, taken in May 2000-04.

Jobcentre Plus

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what outreach services are offered by Jobcentre Plus staff outside of Jobcentre Plus; and in what types of locations. [261022]

Mr. McNulty: The administration of Jobcentre Plus is a matter for the acting chief executive of Jobcentre Plus, Mel Groves. I have asked him to provide the right hon. Member with the information requested.

Letter from Mel Groves:

The Secretary of State has asked me to reply to your question asking what outreach services are offered by Jobcentre Plus staff outside of Jobcentre Plus; and in what types of locations. This is something that falls within the responsibilities delegated to me as Acting Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus.

In addition to its network of 744 Jobcentres, Jobcentre Plus services are available from over 140 'Flexible Service Delivery' sites across Great Britain.

The services available at each site depend on local circumstance and range from the availability of a Jobcentre Plus 'jobpoint' (which provides electronic access to a vast array of available vacancies and training opportunities) to a significant number of services available in a Jobcentre such as jobsearch advice, benefit enquiries and signposting to other sources of help.

Jobcentre Plus works closely with partners in the community to consider whether further outreach services, for example in deprived areas, may be necessary and will continue doing so as part of its response to the continuing economic situation.

Some recent examples include a pilot launched in January this year in conjunction with the Department for Children, Schools & Families and the Child Poverty Unit. One full time adviser is located in each of 30 Children's Centres (in a mix of urban and rural locations) across Great Britain. Advisers offer a full range of work focused services to unemployed parents including parents whose partner is currently employed.

Jobcentre Plus is also piloting an adviser outreach service, locating one adviser in each of ten of its districts (comprising urban and rural areas) in a GP surgery. The main role of the adviser is to signpost provision offered under Pathways to Work, patients are referred by their GP for initial employment advice and signposting to a range of support and assistance.

Jobcentre Plus advisers also provide an outreach service alongside Prison Service and other agency staff in Employment and Benefit surgeries to advise prisoners at both the induction and pre release stages of custody.

Jobseeker's Allowance

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the level of jobseeker's allowance as a percentage of average earnings was in each year since 1980; and what he estimates the level will be in each of the next 10 years. [242174]

Mr. McNulty: Contribution-based jobseeker's allowance paid at a flat rate is only part of the comprehensive support available to jobseekers. Income-related jobseeker's allowance, income support and other income-related benefits, such as housing benefit and council tax benefit, are available to top up flat-rate benefits. People bringing up children may also be able to qualify for tax credits.

Generally jobseeker's allowance (and its predecessor unemployment benefit) has been increased annually to ensure that it retains its value in relation to prices.

The available information is in the table.

Unemployment benefit and contribution based jobseeker's Allowance rates as a percentage of average earnings, 1980 to 2008

	Unemployment benefit /jobseeker's allowance rate as a percentage of average earnings
1980-81	18.7
1981-82	18.0
1982-83	18.3
1983-84	18.2
1984-85	17.9
1985-86	17.8
1986-87	16.7
1987-88	15.8
1988-89	15.0
1989-90	14.5
1990-91	14.2
1991-92	14.5
1992-93	14.1
1993-94	14.1
1994-95	14.0
1995-96	13.8
1996-97	13.7
1997-98	13.4
1998-99	12.8
1999-2000	12.6
2000-01	12.3
2001-02	11.8
2002-03	11.4
2003-04	11.2
2004-05	11.2
2005-06	10.9
2006-07	10.7
2007-08	10.7
2008-09	10.5

Notes:

1. Unemployment benefit/jobseeker's allowance rates are for a single person aged 25 or over.
2. Average earnings from 1998 onwards are taken from the Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings (ASHE), and before 1998 from the New Earnings Survey (NES)
3. Average earnings are mean UK gross weekly pay for full-time adult employees.

Jobseeker's Allowance: Cumbria

Mr. Jamie Reed: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much was paid in jobseeker's allowance to claimants in *(a)* Cumbria and *(b)* Copeland constituency in each of the last five years. [263701]

Mr. McNulty: The information is in the following tables.

Jobseeker's allowance expenditure—2008-09 prices

		£ million
	Cumbria	*Copeland*
2003-04	16.7	3.8
2004-05	14.3	3.2
2005-06	15.2	3.2
2006-07	15.1	3.1
2007-08	13.1	2.8

Jobseeker's allowance expenditure—nominal terms

		£ million
	Cumbria	*Copeland*
2003-04	19.1	4.3
2004-05	15.9	3.6
2005-06	16.6	3.5
2006-07	16.1	3.3
2007-08	13.5	2.9

Notes:

1. Caseloads and average amounts have been used to calculate expenditure amounts.
2. Expenditure figures are consistent with the PBR 2008 published expenditure figures.
3. Department of Work and Pensions benefit expenditure tables are available at:

http://www.dwp.gov.uk/asd/asd4/expenditure.asp

Source:

DWP statistical and accounting data

New Deal Schemes

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions when he expects phase two of the Flexible New Deal to start. [266118]

Mr. McNulty: Plans for the phased implementation of the Flexible New Deal were announced to Parliament on 14 March 2008. The Government expect to bring in the Flexible New Deal, in phase two areas, from October 2010.

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions when the procurement process for phase two of the Flexible New Deal is due to start. [266182]

Mr. McNulty: DWP has already embarked on market engagement for phase 2 of flexible new deal, including five supplier briefing events held around the country in February 2009. The pre-qualification questionnaire documents will be available to download from the DWP website in May 2009.

Pension Credit

Ms Buck: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many *(a)* single pensioners and *(b)* pensioner couples are in receipt of pension credit in each Parliamentary constituency; and what the average entitlement is in each case. [267432]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The information requested will be placed in the Library.

Public Opinion

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what payments for *(a)* polling and *(b)* other services his Department has made to (i) Deborah Mattinson and (ii) Opinion Leader Research Limited since 31 December 2007; and if he will make a statement. [260990]

Jonathan Shaw: The information requested is as follows:

(i) We have no record of any payments being made to Deborah Mattinson.

(ii) The total payments made to Opinion Leader Research since 31 December 2007 are £33,622.75

Social Security Benefits: Eligibility

Mrs. Curtis-Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many benefit entitlement checks have been carried out for people in *(a)* Crosby constituency and *(b)* England in the last 12 months. [260152]

Mr. McNulty: The information requested is not held centrally.

Vocational Training

Mike Wood: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many drug users have been placed on a training course through progress2work; and how many have completed such a course. [261075]

Mr. McNulty: Since September 2004, the number of customers entering further education or training both for progress2work and for progress2work-LinkUP is 12,203. Providers can not claim for completion of further education and training as an outcome and therefore we do not collect that information.

The number of customers undertaking specialist training or provision, which could include training courses is 7,620. The number completing specialist training or provision is 4,966.

Notes:

1. Figures are correct at the end of January 2009
2. Numbers are rounded up to the nearest 10 to avoid the risk of identifying individuals.
3. Information is only collected if the customer signs a consent form for their information to be collected on the web based Management Information collection system.

TRANSPORT

A316

Mr. Redwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what estimate he has made of the cost of road works undertaken on the A316 in 2008-09; and for what reasons such works were undertaken. [267086]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The A316 in London has formed part of the Transport for London road network since July 2000. Therefore, any improvement schemes for that road are a matter for the London Mayor and Transport for London as are the details of the costs of any improvements. Further questions should be directed accordingly.

There have been no major works undertaken on the section of the A316 outside of the London Boundary during 2008-09.

Accidents: Animals

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many personnel trained in animal welfare are employed by the Highways Agency to assist traffic officers in road incidents involving injured animals. [266950]

Paul Clark: The Highways Agency does not directly employ any personnel trained in animal welfare. To assist traffic officers in road incidents involving injured animals, the Highways Agency has national partnership agreements in place with the British Equine Veterinary Association through the 'emergency services protocol when dealing with incidents involving equines' and with the RSPCA. These partnership arrangements provide trained personnel to the traffic officer service to ensure the welfare of injured animals.

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what estimate he has made of the number of animals killed on main roads in England in each of the last five years. [266958]

Paul Clark: The Highways Agency (HA) is responsible for the strategic road network in England which consists of motorways and trunk roads. Other roads are the responsibility of local authorities. The Highways Agency do not keep records and the managing agents are not required to record the number of animals killed on the roads they are managing. Any records that are kept are inconsistent making it difficult to collate the data to give an accurate figure. Some agent's contracts have terminated within the five-year period and these records are not available. From the data available, the following figures are for the minimum number killed.

January to December	*Number of animals killed*
2004	2,585
2005	2,831
2006	[illegible]095
2007	[illegible]058
2008	4,899

Aviation

Lynne Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will commission an independent review of the Air Transport White Paper. [268625]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The Air Transport White Paper is kept under regular review. The Department for Transport published a progress report on the White Paper in December 2006, and a further progress report is due to be published within the next two years. Forecasts of UK air passenger numbers and CO_2 emissions are also reviewed regularly, the most recent edition being published in January 2009. The forecasting methods were independently peer-reviewed as part of the Adding Capacity at Heathrow Airport Impact Assessment. The Air Transport White Paper also contains a commitment to evaluate the policies set out in the White Paper; the first stages of this evaluation are now under way.

Bus Services: Concessions

Mr. Newmark: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many concessionary bus passes for people over 60 years have been issued to residents of Essex. [264439]

Paul Clark: The Department for Transport is not responsible for issuing passes and so does not maintain records of how many passes individual authorities have issued.

The last information held by the Department was that as of 7 April 2008 Essex local authorities, including the unitary authorities of Thurrock and Southend-on-Sea had submitted approximately 211,000 applications for the new smartcard concessionary passes to their pass supplier. This includes applications from disabled people as well as those aged 60 and over.

Mrs. Ellman: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport which organisations answered *(a)* yes, *(b)* no and *(c)* blank in respect of each of the questions contained in the consultation on the definition of eligible services for the statutory bus concession in England. [268635]

Paul Clark: A list of the consultees and their responses has been prepared. The list excludes around half a dozen respondents who requested confidentiality. Copies have been placed in the Libraries of the House.

Chippenham Railway Station

Mr. Gray: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport when he expects funding to be made available through the Access for All programme for Chippenham railway station. [267383]

Paul Clark: We announced in January 2008 that Chippenham would be targeted for investment under the Access for All programme during the 2012-15 period. Following an initial site survey and option selection process, we expect Network Rail to install an obstacle free, accessible route at the station within this timescale.

Christmas

Mr. Rob Wilson: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether it is his Department's policy to offer staff *(a)* additional leave entitlement for Christmas shopping and *(b)* Christmas bonus payments. [262815]

Mr. Hoon: The Department for Transport does not offer staff additional leave entitlement for Christmas shopping or Christmas bonus payments.

Dartford-Thurrock Crossing: Tolls

Mr. Evennett: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what consideration he has given to introducing a toll-free crossings trial at the Dartford Crossing. [266643]

Paul Clark: My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State, has made it clear that he is willing to consider innovative solutions to improve transport links and has invited local MPs to meet Ministers to discuss solutions.

For much of the day the crossing operates at or above capacity. The tunnels in particular could not handle more traffic than the toll plaza can process. That, among other things, would need to be taken into account if we introduced any trial arrangements.

Departmental Bank Services

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport pursuant to the answer of 17 March 2009, *Official Report*, column 986W, on departmental bank services, what the *(a)* purpose and *(b)* monetary value is of each contract between his Department and each of the banks listed in the Answer. [268306]

Mr. Hoon: The Department for Transport has had four contracts in place with banks in 2008-09 as follows:

Bank	*Purpose of contract*	*Estimated value (£)*
UBS Ltd	Crossrail financial advisor, advising DFT on funding and governance arrangements	175,000
Merrill Lynch International	Aviation financial advice, related to the purchase of BAA by Ferrovial	50,000
Merrill Lynch International	Aviation financial advice—review of regulatory framework for UK airports	150,000
Citigroup Global Markets Ltd	Financial advisory services in relation to the restructuring of London and Continental Railways Ltd and the disposal of its subsidiary businesses	3,240,000

Departmental Buildings

Dr. Pugh: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what buildings are owned or operated by his Department under a private finance initiative (PFI) arrangement; and which companies are involved with each such PFI arrangement. [267406]

Mr. Hoon: The information requested is as follows:

Property name	*PFI company*
Firth Court, Lincoln	Trillium Property Partnerships
Nottingham Business Park	Trillium Property Partnerships
Riverside House, Northampton	Trillium Property Partnerships
DVLA Peterborough—88 Lincoln	Trillium Property Partnerships
St. Clare House, Ipswich	Trillium Property Partnerships
11 Prince Of Wales Road, Norwich	Trillium Property Partnerships
DVLA Chelmsford—Swift House	Trillium Property Partnerships
Units 2 and 3 Elstree Gate, Borehamwood	Trillium Property Partnerships
Connect House, London	Trillium Property Partnerships
Sidcup House, Bexley	Trillium Property Partnerships
St. Marks House, Stockton on Tees	Trillium Property Partnerships
Eagle Star House, Newcastle upon Tyne	Trillium Property Partnerships
Norroy House, Chester	Trillium Property Partnerships
Ground Floor, Carlisle	Trillium Property Partnerships
Trafford House, Manchester	Trillium Property Partnerships
Block A, Fulwood Park, Preston	Trillium Property Partnerships
Alhambra House, Glasgow	Trillium Property Partnerships
Aberdeen Greyfriars House 54 G, Aberdeen	Trillium Property Partnerships
Longman House, Inverness	Trillium Property Partnerships
Caledonian House, Dundee	Trillium Property Partnerships
Wallace House, Edinburgh	Trillium Property Partnerships
Mocatta House, Brighton	Trillium Property Partnerships
Building B, Theale House, Theale	Trillium Property Partnerships
Connect Centre 5th Floor, Portsmouth	Trillium Property Partnerships
3 Cambridge Terrace, Oxford	Trillium Property Partnerships
Coronet House, Maidstone	Trillium Property Partnerships
Northleigh House, Bristol	Trillium Property Partnerships
Bourne Gate, Bournemouth	Trillium Property Partnerships
Truro Pydar House, Truro	Trillium Property Partnerships
Hanover House, Exeter	Trillium Property Partnerships
Welsh Water Authority Building, Bangor	Trillium Property Partnerships
Swansea Vale 1 (Telelink Phase), Swansea	Trillium Property Partnerships
Archway House, Cardiff	Trillium Property Partnerships
DVLA Morriston (Treforys) Main Site Campus, Swansea	Trillium Property Partnerships
Off Site Data Centre, Swansea	Trillium Property Partnerships
Richard Ley Development Centre, Swansea	Trillium Property Partnerships
Dlup Dual Print Facility, Swansea	Trillium Property Partnerships
Cygnus Building (Telelink 1b), Swansea	Trillium Property Partnerships
Gatehouse, Swansea	Trillium Property Partnerships
Rosb Contact Centre, Swansea	Trillium Property Partnerships
Shared Services Centre, Swansea	Trillium Property Partnerships
Clerkenleap Barn, Worcester	Trillium Property Partnerships
Shrewsbury Multi Purpose Test, Shrewsbury	Trillium Property Partnerships
42 Eastgate, Leeds	Trillium Property Partnerships
Cedar House, Sheffield	Trillium Property Partnerships
Beverley Crosskill House, Beverley	Trillium Property Partnerships
Garretts Green Multi Purpose Test, Birmingham	Trillium Property Partnerships
Billingham Depot	Autolink Ltd
Stocksfield Depot	Road Link (A69) Ltd
Bramham Depot	Connect M1-At Ltd
Boroughbridge Depot	Road Management Services Ltd
Banbury Depot	UK Highways M40 Ltd
Handy Cross Depot	UK Highways M40 Ltd
Milton Common Depot	UK Highways M40 Ltd
Scropton Depot	Connect A50 Ltd
Cherry Tree Lane Depot	Road Management Services Ltd
Avonmouth Bridge Unit	Operated by InterRoute
Aust Bridge	Seven Bridge Company

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what properties *(a)* his Department, *(b)* its agencies and *(c)* its non-departmental public bodies have sold in each of the last five years. [267553]

Mr. Hoon: The information is provided as follows.

DFT Organisational Unit	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*	*2008-09*
(a) Central Department	0	0	0	0	0	n/a
(b) Executive Agency						
Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency	0	0	0	0	0	n/a
Driving Standards Agency	0	0	0	1	0	2
Government Car and Despatch Agency	0	0	0	0	0	n/a
Highways Agency	129	135	126	109	56	n/a
Maritime and Coastguard Agency	n/a	1	2	3	3	2
Vehicle and Operator Services Agency	0	0	0	1	0	0
Vehicle Certification Agency	0	0	0	0	0	n/a
(c) NDPBs						
British Transport Police Authority	0	0	0	0	0	n/a
Passenger Focus	0	0	0	0	0	n/a
The Railway Heritage Committee	0	0	0	0	0	n/a
Trinity House Lighthouse Service[1]	n/a	0	2	0	0	1
Northern Lighthouse Board	n/a	0	2	4	0	2

[1] Relates to calendar year

Departmental Capital Expenditure

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how much capital spending is planned to be brought forward by his Department to *(a)* 2008-09 and *(b)* 2009-10. [266291]

Mr. Hoon: The Fiscal Stimulus package for transport, announced in the pre-Budget report, "Facing global challenges: Supporting people through difficult times" (Cm 7484), comprises £700 million of capital budget advanced into 2009-10 from 2010-11. No funds were advanced into 2008-09 from 2009-10.

Departmental Consultants

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how much his Department has spent on consultants in respect of *(a)* cycling and *(b)* walking in the last 12 months. [266432]

Paul Clark: Approximately £2.513 million has been spent on consultants to support Cycling England's programme. This includes tasks such as provision of advice and support to local authorities to help them deliver effective cycling projects, management of grant dispersal, monitoring and evaluation and development of the new cycle training programme.

It is not possible to quantify the walking and cycling element of the full range of projects. There will be a walking and cycling element to many road safety and traffic management projects for example.

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how much his Department has spent on consultants in respect of proposals to widen *(a)* the M1; *(b)* the M6 and *(c)* the M62 in each of the last 11 years. [266433]

Paul Clark: The expenditure on consultants engaged on widening the M1, M6 and M62 schemes by year, is given in the table.

	Motorway		
	M1	*M6*	*M62*
Pre 2001-02	0.0	0.2	0.0
2001-02	0.0	0.0	0.0
2002-03	0.0	0.6	0.0
2003-04	0.9	2.7	0.0
2004-05	5.7	1.1	0.0
2005-06	9.1	3.2	0.2
2006-07	20.2	0.0	1.0
2007-08	10.6	0.0	0.5
2008-09	2.2	0.0	0.5
Total	48.8	7.8	2.2

Due to changes in the Highways Agency's financial systems, all expenditure before 2001-02 is given as 'pre 2001-02' expenditure.

The expenditure is the total cost of all consultancy work including employer's agent and design and development consultants from programme entry up to:

construction, for schemes which have completed or are currently under construction; or

July 2008 for schemes which, since that date, have been considered for Hard Shoulder Running as part of the Managed Motorways feasibility study.

Some schemes have investigated Active Traffic management options alongside widening before the Hard Shoulder Running feasibility study programme started in July 2008. Expenditure on these schemes is not entirely attributable to widening, but it is not possible to separate these costs.

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how much his Department has spent on consultants on road widening schemes *(a)* in total and *(b)* in each region in each of the last 11 years. [266435]

Paul Clark: The expenditure on consultants engaged on both motorway and non-motorway widening schemes, by region and by year, is given in the table.

£ million

Region	*Pre 2001-02*	*2001-02*	*2002-03*	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*	*2008-09*	*Total*
NE	0.5	0.0	0.0	0.2	0.5	2.5	1.7	0.0	0.0	5.4
E	9.9	0.4	2.1	6.1	16.5	20.9	29.1	26.8	26.7	138.6
EM	1.9	0.1	1.2	-1.8	11.1	10.6	15.9	9.1	5.3	53.3
NW	4.2	-1.6	2.1	2.7	1.1	3.2	0.0	0.0	0.1	11.8
SE	11.8	-4.8	2.7	2.0	5.6	14.9	10.1	4.7	2.0	49.0
SW	1.4	1.1	2.4	4.8	6.2	-0.1	0.3	0.1	0.0	16.2
WM	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
YH	19.9	3.3	18.7	1.5	7.1	8.8	10.3	9.9	0.5	80.0
Total	49.7	-1.5	29.2	15.4	48.0	60.8	67.4	50.5	34.7	354.2

Key:
NE (North East)
E (East)
EM (East Midlands)
NW (North West)
SE (South East)
SW (South West)
WM (West Midlands)
YH (Yorkshire and Humberside)

Due to changes in the Highways Agency's financial systems, all expenditure before 2001-02 is given as 'pre 2001-02' expenditure. Negative figures represent prior years' accounting adjustments on specific schemes.

Departmental Disciplinary Proceedings

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many staff in his Department *(a)* were disciplined and *(b)* had their employment terminated as a result of a poor sickness record in each of the last 12 months. [262220]

Mr. Hoon: The central Department and its agencies disciplined or dismissed the following staff for poor sickness records in each of the last 12 months:

	Disciplined	*Dismissed*
March 2008	[1]—	[1]—
April 2008	[1]—	8
May 2008	8	[1]—
June 2008	[1]—	7
July 2008	7	7
August 2008	6	[1]—
September 2008	10	5
October 2008	5	[1]—
November 2008	[1]—	[1]—
December 2008	[1]—	[1]—
January 2009	13	[1]—
February 2009	20	[1]—

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[1] Where there are fewer than five occurrences, the Department's policy is to suppress information on grounds of confidentiality.

Departmental Empty Property

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what estimate he has made of the change in the annual cost to his Department of maintaining the empty public buildings owned by his Department as a result of the April 2008 changes to empty property rate relief. [267139]

Mr. Hoon: The annual cost to the Department of maintaining empty buildings is estimated at £56,366.

Departmental Energy

Greg Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how much *(a)* electricity, *(b)* gas and *(c)* other fuel was used by (i) his Department and (ii) each of its agencies in each of the last 10 years. [267330]

Mr. Hoon: The Department for Transport was formed in 2002 and we do not hold the relevant records prior to that date.

The following tables show the electricity, gas and other fuels used by the Department for Transport and its Agencies since 2002-03.

Electricity (kWh)

Business unit	*2002-03*	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*
Central Department	6,694,663	7,095,869	8,073,203	9,189,266	8,039,848	7,522,567
Driving Standards Agency (DSA)	3,187,173	2,747,674	3,397,953	3,967,843	4,337,092	3,555,589

Electricity (kWh)

Business unit	*2002-03*	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*
Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency (DVLA)	11,304,647	12,560,860	14,698,167	14,106,404	15,658,681	16,460,063
Government Car and Despatch Agency (GCDA)	Not part of Department for Transport			757,036	831,151	821,805
Highways Agency (HA)	3,973,064	3,536,282	4,092,816	3,615,533	3,602,937	4,393,721
Maritime and Coastguard Agency (MCA)	4,774,651	5,345,847	5,708,513	6,901,183	6,831,677	5,813,369
Vehicle Certification Agency (VCA)	147,670	131,919	65,069	153,608	136,804	200,423
Vehicle and Operator Services Agency (VOSA)	3,927,944	6,243,987	7,194,512	6,640,513	6,914,649	6,992,162
Total	34,009,812	37,662,438	43,230,233	45,331,386	46,352,839	45,759,699

Gas (kWh)

Business unit	*2002-03*	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*
Central Department	1,255,887	1,169,739	1,183,339	1,743,451	893,085	970,130
Driving Standards Agency (DSA)	4,035,828	3,371,061	2,836,153	7,135,920	3,942,059	3,095,886
Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency (DVLA)	7,166,349	7,376,529	14,665,348	28,442,576	26,254,520	31,470,328
Government Car and Despatch Agency (GCDA)	Not part of Department for Transport			733,428	638,352	1,909,513
Highways Agency (HA)	2,656,672	2,642,338	2,418,204	2,170,079	1,769,332	2,049,947
Maritime and Coastguard Agency (MCA)	3,537,663	3,767,973	3,283,979	4,308,427	3,508,140	2,796,924
Vehicle Certification Agency (VCA)	116,093	130,537	119,626	130,536	109,035	90,245
Vehicle and Operator Services Agency (VOSA)	5,491,702	5,666,459	6,850,996	5,427,891	5,652,612	6,882,232
Total	24,260,194	24,124,636	31,357,645	50,092,308	42,767,055	49,265,205

Other Fuels (kWh)

Business unit	*2002-03*	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*
Central Department	464,400	444,312	421,858	450,079	448,200	390,760
Driving Standards Agency (DSA)	—	—	—	7,000	6,500	120,010
Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency (DVLA)	—	—	—		—	527,640
Government Car and Despatch Agency (GCDA)	Not part of Department for Transport			—	—	—
Highways Agency (HA)	—	—	—	—	—	—
Maritime and Coastguard Agency (MCA)	421,267	421,267	26,043	—	797,067	676,865
Vehicle Certification Agency (VCA)	185,500	185,500	196,100	212,000	238,500	190,925
Vehicle and Operator Services Agency (VOSA)	1,476,601	1,075,090	1,417,470	--	1,704,115	1,431,981
Total	2,547,768	2,126,169	2,061,471	669,079	3,194,382	3,338,181

Part of the progressive increases shown above is accounted for by improvements in the standard of data collection.

Departmental Public Consultations

Mr. Vara: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many public consultations his Department has conducted in the last 12 months; how long each consultation was open for; how many responses were received in each case; and what the cost of conducting each consultation was. [259692]

Mr. Hoon: Details of the consultations conducted by the Department for Transport between 1 February 2008 and 31 January 2009 have been placed in the Libraries of both Houses.

Departmental Public Expenditure

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what *(a)* capital and *(b)* resource funds his Department has brought forward from its (i) 2009-10 and (ii) 2010-11 budgets for use in (A) 2008-09 and (B) 2009-10; and what schemes this funding is being used to support. [265106]

Mr. Hoon: The Fiscal Stimulus package for transport, announced in the pre-Budget report, "Facing global challenges: Supporting people through difficult times" (Cm 7484), comprises £700 million of capital budget advanced into 2009-10 from 2010-11. No funds were advanced into 2008-09 from 2009-10; resource budgets are unaffected.

The fiscal stimulus package included £300 million for advanced works on delivering managed motorways and other projects Highways Agency, £300 million on the procurement of diesel units as part of the Department for Transport's high level output specification for Britain's railways and £100 million on improvements to the A46.

Dr. Cable: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what his latest estimate is of his Department's capital expenditure in *(a)* 2008-09, *(b)* 2009-10, *(c)* 2010-11 and *(d)* 2011-12; and if he will make a statement. [268127]

Mr. Hoon: The figures published on page 214 of the pre-Budget report in November 2008 are still current for the Department for Transport.

The forecast outturn for expenditure within the Department's capital department expenditure limit (CDEL) for 2008-09 is £7.3 billion.

Capital budgets (CDEL) for 2009-10 and 2010-11 (as set in the 2007 comprehensive spending review and amended for the impacts of the fiscal stimulus package for transport, announced in the pre-Budget report, 'Facing global challenges: Supporting people through difficult times' (Cm 7484)) is £8.3 billion and £7.4 billion.

In regard to 2011-12; while the Government do publish projections for public sector net investment at Budgets and pre-Budget reports, the Government have not set the Department's capital DEL budgets for years beyond 2010-11—the Department's capital DEL budget for 2011-12 and beyond will be a matter for the next spending review.

Departmental Publications

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what estimate he has made of the *(a)* production and printing and *(b)* other costs to his Department of producing its most recent (i) departmental annual report and (ii) autumn performance report. [266687]

Mr. Hoon: The information requested is as follows.

(a) The pre-press production costs including image licensing, proofreading, indexing, typesetting and printing for the most recent (i) Departmental Annual Report was £25,622 and (ii) Autumn Performance Report was £5,545.

Departmental Scientists

Ian Stewart: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what his Department's budget for scientific advice and research is in 2008-09; for what purposes the equivalent budget for 2007-08 was used; and how many people employed in his Department have a science or engineering degree. [260768]

Mr. Hoon: The Department for Transport does not have a separately identified budget for scientific advice and research, but estimates that its spend for 2008-09 will be approximately £62.5 million.

The equivalent budget in 2007-08 was used to fund research to inform a wide range of the Department's responsibilities. An overview of these is included in the departmental evidence and research strategy published on the website. Also on the website are further details in the unit-level strategies and access to the Department's research database.

The Department does not collate information on the qualifications of the people it employs, and such information could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Based on a recent Government Office for Science Community of Interest survey (which was on an 'opt in' basis), the Department had 71 respondents. Of these, 30 indicated a science background (qualification or level not specified) and 35 an engineering background; six quoted a science and engineering background. Of the total, 43 indicated they were members of professional bodies.

Departmental Standards

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what estimate he has made of the cost to his Department of measuring compliance with its targets under its public service agreements in the last 12 months for which figures are available. [266705]

Mr. Hoon: The Department for Transport is directly responsible for the delivery of PSA5—to deliver reliable and efficient transport networks that support economic growth. Four indicators support this public service agreement and progress on each is monitored using data arising from the Department's existing business activity. As such there is no cost to the Department of measuring compliance against these indicators.

Departmental Training

Mr. Hands: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport pursuant to the Answer of 3 February 2009, *Official Report*, column 1124W, which Ministers took the *(a)* induction and *(b)* action learning set course; and how much these courses cost. [265662]

Mr. Hoon: The two courses referred to in my earlier answer cost £100 and £250 respectively. Identifying Ministers who undertake training would, or would be likely to, discourage participation in future training sessions, acting as a disincentive for Ministers to undertake formal professional development.

Departmental Travel

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how much his Department has spent on work-related journeys by *(a)* taxi, *(b)* car, *(c)* train, *(d)* bus, *(e)* plane, *(f)* bicycle, *(g)* motorcycle and *(h)* ferry in each of the last 11 years. [266428]

Mr. Hoon: The Department for Transport does not readily hold the information on spend by travel mode and cannot provide the detail without incurring disproportionate costs.

Ferries

Mr. Andrew Turner: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what requirements his Department places on operators of ferries which make journeys of less than 20 miles in respect of *(a)* passenger loading limits and *(b)* recording the number of passengers embarking. [264673]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The following requirements, for ferry operators making journeys of less than 20 miles, are applicable:

(a) Passenger Loading Limits

Regulations on the technical requirements of passenger ships to the passenger numbers include:

The Merchant Shipping (Passenger Ship Construction: Ships of Classes I, II and II(A)) Regulations 1998;

The Merchant Shipping (Passenger Ship Construction: Ships of Classes III to VI(A)) Regulations 1998;

The Merchant Shipping (Passenger Ships on Domestic Voyages) Regulations 2000;

The Merchant Shipping (Ro-Ro Passenger Ships) (Stability) Regulations 2004;

The Merchant Shipping (Fire Protection: Small Ships) Regulations 1998;

The Merchant Shipping (Fire Protection: Large Ships) Regulations 1998;

The Merchant Shipping (Fire Protection) Regulations 2003;

The Merchant Shipping (Emergency Information for Passengers) Regulations 1990;

The Merchant Shipping (High Speed Craft) Regulations 2004;

The Merchant Shipping (Life-Saving Appliances For Ships Other Than Ships Of Classes III To VI(A)) Regulations 1999;

The Merchant Shipping (Life-Saving Appliances For Passenger Ships Of Classes III To VI(A)) Regulations 1999.

On completion of surveys which take account of the above regulations, instructions to surveyors and other relevant departmental guidance, each ship is issued with a Passenger Certificate stipulating the maximum number of passengers and the total number of persons on board (including crew) that can be safely carried.

(b) Passenger Counting

The Merchant Shipping (Counting and Registration of Persons on Board Passenger Ships) Regulations 1999 (SI 1999 No. 1869), supported by Merchant Shipping Notice 1794 describes practical methods for counting and registering passengers. For voyages of less than 20 miles, these regulations require a count of passengers and crew and for this information to be held ashore for the duration of the voyage;

Definition of a Class VI Passenger Vessel

A passenger ship engaged only on voyages with not more than 250 passengers on board, to sea, or in category A, B, C and D waters, in all cases in favourable weather and during restricted periods, in the course of which the ships are at no time more than 15 miles, exclusive of any category, A, B and C waters, from their point of departure nor more than three miles from land;

Definition of a Class VI(A) Passenger Vessel

A passenger ship carrying not more than 50 passengers for a distance of not more than six miles on voyages to or from isolated communities on the islands or coast of the United Kingdom and which do not proceed for a distance of more than three miles from land subject to any conditions which the Secretary of State for Transport may impose.

Gospel Oak-Barking Railway Line

Jeremy Corbyn: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what recent discussions he has had with Transport for London on the electrification of the Barking to Gospel Oak line. [267717]

Paul Clark: The Minister of State for Transport, Lord Adonis; has met Transport for London to discuss their interest in developing a proposal to electrify the Gospel Oak to Barking line.

Highways Agency

Mr. Winnick: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will ensure that before work is undertaken by the Highways Agency which adversely affects residents, information is provided directly to each affected household before work begins. [268395]

Paul Clark: I refer my hon. Friend to my answer of 23 March 2009 *Official Report*, columns 6-7W.

Mr. Winnick: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport when the contract of the Chief Executive of the Highways Agency is due to expire; and what procedures will be followed for the appointment of his successor. [268396]

Mr. Hoon: The current Chief Executive of the Highways Agency is a permanent civil servant who was appointed to the role on 30 June 2008.

The appointment of his successor will be considered at the appropriate time by the Senior Leadership Committee which is responsible for advising the Cabinet Secretary on appointments at Permanent Secretary and Director General levels and for recommending the mode of recruitment for these roles.

Mr. Winnick: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what meetings there have been between Ministers in his Department and the Chief Executive of the Highways Agency to discuss the workings of the Agency in the last 12 months. [268399]

Paul Clark: Monthly meetings are held between the Minister of State for Transport, Lord Adonis, and the Chief Executive of the Highways Agency, at which they discuss a variety of issues including the workings of the Highways Agency.

The former Chief Executive, Archie Robertson, also had regular meetings with previous Ministers on a regular basis.

Mr. Winnick: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many people are employed in the section of the Highways Agency that deals with the media and public relations; and what the salary of the person in charge of that section is. [268460]

Paul Clark: As at 1 April the Highways Agency employs 11 staff in the section responsible for media and public relations. This includes national and regional press officers. The Head of News is a Highways Agency Pay Band 7, for which the London salary range is £47,200 to £55,282. In addition, other Highways Agency staff will be involved in public information exercises in relation to specific projects they are working on.

M3

Mr. Redwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport when he expects the road works on the M3 between the M25 junction 4 to be completed; for what reasons the works were undertaken; and what estimate he has made of the cost of the works. [267064]

Paul Clark: The Highways Agency has two sets of roadworks currently on the M3 between junctions 4 and the M25.

The first of these is between the M25 junction 12 and the M3 junction 2, a new lane layout has been installed to reduce congestion for traffic movements from the M25 joining the M3 southbound. Work to make this new lane layout permanent will start in summer 2009 and is expected to complete in autumn 2009. The estimated cost of the work to make the scheme permanent is £2.9 million.

The second set of roadworks is between M3 Junctions 4 and 3 on the London-bound carriageway and is being carried out for the replacement of the drainage on the northwest side of the motorway. The works are required due to the instability of the ground in this area and the age of the drainage system. The filter drain has cracked over much of its length and running sand is now entering the drain. Without this work there is a high risk that the carriageway will be undermined and that the road will flood during heavy rain, compromising the safety of the travelling public. The work is due to be completed in August 2009 and will cost approximately £4.6 million.

Mr. Redwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how much has been collected in speeding fines imposed for violations of the 50 miles per hour limit around the roadworks on the M3 in the last 12 months. [267087]

Paul Clark: In the last 12 months there have been two sites which have had average speed cameras. The Highways Agency does not hold information on speeding fines collected through cameras on the M3 roadworks because the safety cameras are operated by the Surrey Safety Camera Partnership.

M4: Greater London

Mr. Redwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many times the elevated section of the M4 in London is scheduled to be closed at night in 2009. [267085]

Paul Clark: Between January and March 2009 the M4 elevated section was closed at night 16 times eastbound and 20 times westbound.

The elevated section is scheduled to be closed at night 28 times westbound and 39 times eastbound between April and September 2009. These closures are to carry out routine maintenance and also to replace expansion joints.

From September 2009, a new design build finance operate (DBFO) contract will be in place. It is not known if the contractor will maintain the current maintenance regime for the remainder of 2009, however the contract will incentivise efficient methods for scheduling roadworks.

When undertaking works on the M4 elevated section the restricted width necessitates the full closure of a carriageway, to ensure the safety of the work force and road users. To complete the works in an efficient manner while minimising disruption to residents businesses and road users, closures take place at night with diversions via the A4.

Mr. Redwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport when he expects works on the elevated section of the M4 in London to be completed. [267150]

Paul Clark: The current phase of work, to replace expansion joints, is expected to be completed in August 2009.

The structure carrying the elevated section of the M4 in London will require maintenance activity throughout its life to maintain it in a safe and serviceable condition.

Motorways: Repairs and Maintenance

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how much his Department spent on consultants in respect of proposals to widen motorways *(a)* in total and *(b)* in each region in each of the last 11 years. [266436]

Paul Clark *[holding answer 25 March 2009]*: The expenditure on consultants engaged on motorway widening schemes, by region and by year, is given in the following table.

£ million

Region	*Pre 2001-02*	*2001-02*	*2002-03*	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*	*2008-09*	*Total*
East	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.9	10.3	15.1	20.7	18.1	10.0	75.1
East Midlands	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	3.4	5.7	9.2	3.6	0.3	22.2
North West	4.2	-1.6	2.1	2.7	1.1	3.2	0.0	0.0	0.1	11.8
South East	8.4	0.8	0.5	0.0	2.9	7.2	7.9	1.7	0.2	29.6
South West	0.0	0.0	0.0	2.2	2.8	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	5.0
West Midlands	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Yorkshire and Humberside	6.7	3.3	18.2	0.0	0.0	1.1	2.2	1.6	0.5	33.7
Total	19.4	2.5	20.8	5.9	20.5	32.3	40.0	25.0	11.2	177.4

Due to changes in the Highways Agency's financial systems, all expenditure before 2001-02 is given as 'pre 2001-02' expenditure. Negative figures represent prior years' accounting adjustments on specific schemes.

Public Transport: Disabled

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what steps his Department is taking to ensure that public transport in *(a)* Hemel Hempstead and *(b)* Hertfordshire is accessible to people with disabilities. [265790]

Paul Clark: The Department for Transport allocates integrated transport block and highways maintenance funding to local transport authorities for general capital investment in transport. This funding is not ring-fenced and local authorities have discretion to spend their allocations in line with their priorities. The total allocation provided to Hertfordshire (which covers Hemel Hempstead) in 2008-09 is £22.663 million.

The 'Access for All' Programme is part of the 'Railways for All' Strategy, and was launched by the department in 2006 to address the issues faced by disabled passengers using railway stations in Great Britain. The main schemes currently in the programme for Hertfordshire are at the following stations:

Berkhamstead
Hitchin
Letchworth
Elstree and Borehamwood
Harpenden
Hatfield
Hemel Hempstead

In addition, there are currently £1.3 million of small scheme awards, to projects worth £3.2 million at over 25 sites in Hertfordshire.

To ensure that disabled people are able to use public transport, by law all new trains, buses and coaches used on scheduled services now have to be physically accessible, including to wheelchair users. The Department has set deadlines for all trains to be accessible by 2020 and all buses used on local or scheduled services will be required to meet accessibility standards by 2017.

In addition, the Department is currently consulting on issues to improve the accessibility of taxis.

Public Transport: Disabled

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what steps his Department is taking to ensure that public transport is accessible to people with disabilities in *(a)* England, *(b)* the North East, *(c)* Tees Valley district and *(d)* Middlesbrough South and East Cleveland constituency. [265339]

Paul Clark: The Department for Transport allocates integrated transport block and highways maintenance funding to local transport authorities for general capital investment in transport. This funding is not ring-fenced and local authorities have discretion to spend their allocations in line with their priorities. The total allocation provided to the north east in 2008-09 is £76.184 million.

The 'Access for All' programme is part of the 'Railways for All' Strategy, and was launched by the Department in 2006 to address the issues faced by disabled passengers using railway stations in Great Britain. Details of all the stations currently in the programme can be found at:

http://www.dft.gov.uk/transportforyou/access/rail/railstations/access/accessforallstations

To ensure that disabled people are able to use public transport, by law all new trains, buses and coaches used on scheduled services now have to be physically accessible, including to wheelchair users. We have set deadlines for all trains to be accessible by 2020 and all buses used on local or scheduled services will be required to meet accessibility standards by 2017.

In addition, the Department is currently consulting on issues to improve the accessibility of taxis.

Railways

Mr. David Anderson: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will take steps to ensure that Network Rail maintains its expenditure levels on track and overhead line renewals. [268669]

Paul Clark: Determining the appropriate level of expenditure on track and overhead line renewals is a matter for Network Rail and the independent Office of Rail Regulation. The Office of Rail Regulation's document, "Periodic review 2008—Determination of Network Rail's outputs and funding for 2009-14", assesses the expenditure that Network Rail will need to undertake in 2009-14 on track and overhead line renewals as £3,869 million and £182 million respectively (both in 2006-07 prices).

Railways: Construction

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will publish the analysis his Department has made of high speed rail using the criteria set out in his Department's New Approach to Transport Appraisal. [267522]

Paul Clark *[holding answer 27 March 2009]:* We have asked High Speed Two to report by the end of the year on a new line from London to the west midlands and advise on potential development further north. This will include relevant appraisals. The Department for Transport has not separately appraised high speed rail against New Approach to Appraisal criteria.

Railways: Freight

Hugh Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what his Department's policy is on the proposed Kent International Gateway project at Junction 8 of the M20; and if he will make a statement. [266843]

Paul Clark *[holding answer 26 March 2009]:* The Strategic Rail Authority document, "Strategic Rail Interchange Policy" of 2004, which can be found at:

www.dft.gov.uk/pgr/freight/railfreight/railfreightinterchange.pdf

is still the basis for the Department for Transport's policy on rail freight interchanges.

I cannot comment on merits of the Kent International Gateway terminal development proposal which is currently under consideration within the planning system.

Hugh Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether the Highways Agency has given any advice to *(a)* his Department and *(b)* other interested parties in respect of the Kent International Gateway project proposal at Junction 8 of the M20. [266845]

Paul Clark *[holding answer 26 March 2009]:* The Highways Agency has not given any advice to *(a)* other parts of the Department for Transport and *(b)* any other interested parties, although they have held discussions with the developer, Kent International Gateway Ltd and the respective local authorities, Kent county council and Maidstone borough council.

Hugh Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what assessment he has made of the Faber Maunsell Report on logistical aspects of the Kent International Gateway project prepared for his Department; and if he will make a statement. [266847]

Paul Clark *[holding answer 26 March 2009]:* The Highways Agency has made the assessment that the operation of the proposed development and the transport impacts may not be as forecast by the developer for the Kent International Gateway Project.

Roads

Michael Fabricant: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport which roads for which the Highways Agency is responsible have distance marker posts marking kilometres; what the cost of installing such posts has been to date; and for what reasons such posts have been installed. [268386]

Paul Clark: Distance marker posts, first installed on motorways in the 1970s, are small posts located at 100 metre intervals along the hard shoulder of all motorways.

Driver location signs are blue signs located at 500 metre intervals also along the hard shoulder. They enable drivers to pinpoint their location and the emergency services to locate the scenes of incidents, more quickly.

Following a successful trial in 2003, from 2007 onwards, driver location signs have been installed on 80 per cent. of the motorway network at a cost of £5.9 million. During 2009-10 signs will be installed on the remaining parts of the motorway network at a cost of £1.6 million.

Both show similar information, however, the driver location signs are designed to be able to be read easily from the carriageway.

Roads: Repairs and Maintenance

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what estimate he has made of the effect of snowfall on the cost of road repairs since 1 January 2009. [266434]

Paul Clark: The Highways Agency is responsible for the maintenance of the strategic road network. They have not separately identified or estimated over and above the cost of maintenance to the overall road network, expenditure on repairs incurred because of snowfalls experienced this year. The Highways Agency's experience is that such costs are small compared to overall maintenance expenditure. The costs are likely to be for treating safety related defects, which are treated promptly as part of the routine and winter maintenance programme.

The management of local roads in England is the responsibility of each local highway authority. The Department for Transport has not made an estimate of the cost of repairs to local roads caused by this year's severe winter.

Roads: Snow and Ice

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will provide funding for local authorities to develop indoor salt storage facilities. [267116]

Paul Clark *[holding answer 26 March 2009]:* I refer the hon. Member to the Secretary of State's written ministerial statement of 12 March 2009, *Official Report*, columns 29-32WS. This advised that he had invited the UK Roads Liaison Group (UKRLG) to review the lessons learnt from the severe winter and to recommend what steps could be adopted by local highway authorities, trunk road authorities, producers of salt and other stakeholders to ensure the effective treatment of England's road network. A copy of the terms of reference of the review are available in the Libraries of the House.

Issues relating to salt storage will form part of that review.

UKRLG have been asked to report back by the summer, and we will present the conclusions to Parliament.

Rolling Stock

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport pursuant to the Statement of 12 February 2009, *Official Report*, columns 1531-44, on new trains (investment), how many of the carriages to be supplied by Agility Trains for the contract for new inter-city express trains will be manufactured solely in Japan. [265034]

Paul Clark: Agility Trains has indicated that only around the first 70 pre-series vehicles, out of an order for up to 1,400, will be manufactured solely in Japan. They are committed to spending 70 per cent. of the super Express Trains contract value in the United Kingdom.

Mr. Binley: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many of the 217 new carriages announced for London Midland in August 2008 are in use. [267640]

Paul Clark: As of March 2009, 52 new Class 350/2 carriages are in service with London Midland. The remaining 165 new vehicles are expected to be in service with the operator by the end of 2010.

Mr. Binley: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many of the 1,300 new rail carriages announced by the Government in August 2008 are in use on the rail network. [267641]

Paul Clark: As of March 2009 the following new carriages are in service on the rail network:

London Midland—52 Class 350/2 vehicles

First Capital Connect—4 Class 377/5 vehicles.

A further 253 new carriages are expected to be in service with these operators by the end of 2010.

Mr. Binley: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many rail users *(a)* complained about and *(b)* received compensation for overcrowding on trains in the latest period for which figures are available. [267642]

Paul Clark: The Department for Transport does not hold this information. However, The Office of Rail Regulation publishes complaints data supplied by train operators to the department in National Rail Trends, which can be found at

http://www.rail-reg.gov.uk/server/show/nav.1863.

Mr. Binley: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many reported incidents of passengers being *(a)* taken ill and *(b)* injured on board trains as a result of overcrowding there were in the latest period for which information is available; and if he will make a statement. [267643]

Paul Clark: There have been no reports of passengers taken ill as a result of overcrowding on board trains. In 2008, one passenger injury due to overcrowding on board trains was reported to the Office of Rail Regulation.

Railway incidents are reported to the Office of Rail Regulation under the Reporting of Injuries, Diseases and Dangerous Occurrences Regulations 1995 (RIDDOR 95). Under RIDDOR 95 the reporting trigger for a non fatal injury to a passenger is that they are removed from the site of the accident immediately to hospital.

Incidents involving people being taken ill on board trains are only reportable if the illness or medical condition can be directly attributable to the operation of the railway; and the person is removed from the site of the accident immediately to hospital.

Stephen Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport pursuant to the answer of March 2009, *Official Report*, columns 1611-2W, on rolling stock, whether the additional vehicles for South Central and South Eastern listed in his Department's Rolling Stock Plan will be cascaded ex-Thameslink stock. [267669]

Paul Clark: It is not possible to be definitive in respect of the actual solutions for capacity enhancement for these franchises at this time.

Discussions with the respective train operators (or, in the case of South Central, the bidders for the new franchise) are ongoing.

Speed Limits: Cameras

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many fixed speed cameras there are in *(a)* England, *(b)* each region and *(c)* each London borough. [266422]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The Department for Transport only holds information about the number of safety camera sites operating within the National Safety Camera Programme for England and Wales which started in 2001 and ended on 31 March 2007.

The table shows the number of fixed speed camera sites (including average speed cameras) operating at 31 March 2007 within the national programme in each region and the total for England. Separate information for each London borough is not held. Different areas entered the national programme on different dates, and in many cases had established camera sites before joining the programme which are not shown in the table.

Since 1 April 2007 the deployment of safety cameras has been the responsibility of individual local partnerships. The number of cameras in place since then will therefore be a matter for each individual partnership.

Fixed safety cameras in England	*Number*
Avon and Somerset	66
Bedfordshire	44
Cambridgeshire	49
Cheshire	47
Cleveland	3
Cumbria	4
Derbyshire	47
Devon and Cornwall	72
Dorset	51
Essex	82
Gloucestershire	26
Gtr. Manchester	108
Hampshire	31
Hertfordshire	57
Humberside	4
Kent and Medway	73
Lancashire	271
Leicestershire	15
Lincolnshire	42
London	439
Merseyside	29
Norfolk	11
Northamptonshire	41
Northumbria	42
Nottinghamshire	25
South Yorkshire	56
Staffordshire	65
Suffolk	8
Surrey	21
Sussex	55
Thames Valley	214
Warwickshire	20
West Mercia	16
West Midlands	147
West Yorkshire	53
Wiltshire	7
England total	2,341

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what year-on-year change there has been in the number of speed cameras there has been in *(a)* England, *(b)* each region and *(c)* each London borough in each of the last 11 years. [266426]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The Department for Transport only holds information about the number of safety camera sites (covering both fixed and mobile camera enforcement) operating within the National Safety Camera Programme for England and Wales which started in 2001 and ended on 31 March 2007.

The table shows for each year the number of speed camera sites in each region operating within the national programme, using the "date established" supplied by the safety camera partnerships. Figures for England are shown but separate information for each London borough is not held. Different areas entered the national programme on different dates, and in many cases had established camera sites before joining the programme which are not shown in the table.

Since 1 April 2007 the deployment of safety cameras has been the responsibility of individual local partnerships. The number of cameras in place since then is therefore a matter for each individual partnership.

Camera sites by area	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*
Avon and Somerset	104	189	228	247	247	247	247
Bedfordshire	30	88	90	95	114	114	114
Cambridgeshire	36	56	67	74	88	92	92

Camera sites by area	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*
Cheshire	18	26	54	64	75	80	80
Cleveland	34	38	47	52	52	54	54
Cumbria	0	0	35	35	39	44	44
Derbyshire	45	73	108	123	127	128	128
Devon and Cornwall	55	95	105	124	145	147	147
Dorset	29	51	92	99	102	105	105
Essex	117	126	159	168	215	220	220
Gloucestershire	29	29	60	72	72	72	72
Greater Manchester	67	79	135	153	261	268	271
Hampshire	19	22	50	61	66	68	68
Hertfordshire	23	23	51	63	80	94	95
Humberside	0	0	64	77	81	81	82
Kent and Medway	38	62	96	118	126	129	129
Lancashire	63	150	268	338	344	345	345
Leicestershire	7	65	77	83	83	88	88
Lincolnshire	25	38	48	57	60	61	61
London	294	305	323	352	403	439	439
Merseyside	0	0	0	0	24	46	51
Norfolk	8	14	24	29	31	37	37
Northamptonshire	26	28	35	39	77	84	84
Northumbria	34	34	103	121	121	126	126
Nottinghamshire	10	44	44	53	55	62	62
South Yorkshire	35	112	119	119	119	119	119
Staffordshire	54	55	65	81	98	98	98
Suffolk	1	3	47	55	55	55	55
Surrey	15	16	16	16	21	23	30
Sussex	25	50	58	69	77	78	81
Thames Valley	213	266	269	274	275	275	275
Warwickshire	8	20	21	34	34	37	37
West Mercia	0	0	40	53	56	60	63
West Mids	97	100	116	141	155	161	161
West Yorkshire	6	27	47	79	83	86	86
Wiltshire	6	23	50	62	62	63	63
Grand total	1,571	2,307	3,211	3,680	4,123	4,286	4,309

Transport: Departmental Responsibilities

Stephen Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how Ministerial responsibility for cross-border transport between each constituency part of the UK is allocated; and if he will make a statement. [265938]

Mr. Hoon: The transport responsibilities of the devolved Administrations and those responsibilities reserved to the UK Government are set out in UK legislation. In addition, the interest of the Strategic Rail Authority in the Arriva Trains Wales franchise agreement was transferred to the Secretary of State for Transport and the National Assembly for Wales by a statutory transfer scheme on 14 October 2005. Subsequently the Secretary of State for Transport and the Assembly entered into an agreement to govern the detailed manner in which they would exercise the rights and liabilities formerly exercised by the Strategic Rail Authority under the franchise agreement.

I work closely with the devolved Administrations to ensure that transport networks between the constituent parts of the United Kingdom are strengthened and fully integrated.

Underground Railways: Freight

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether he plans to enable the London Mail Rail tunnel to be used for transporting goods. [266466]

Paul Clark: The Department for Transport has no plans in relation to the Post Office Underground Railway system. Decisions on the use of the system are a commercial matter for the Royal Mail.

Waterloo Station

Mr. Ellwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport pursuant to the Answer to the hon. Member for Richmond Park of 26 January 2009, *Official Report*, column 16W, on Waterloo Station, whether agreement has been reached with South West Trains on the use of former Eurostar platforms at Waterloo. [264108]

Paul Clark: The Department for Transport is working with Network Rail to extend platforms at Waterloo station and across the whole South Western network to increase capacity on some suburban routes from eight to 10 carriage trains by 2014.

We are continuing to work with Stagecoach South West Trains to provide the additional capacity. These services are subject to concluding value for money negotiations. We expect these services to align with the Network Rail delivery date.

West Coast Railway Line

Michael Fabricant: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will meet the Chairman of the Office of the Rail Regulator to discuss the reliability of service on the Crewe-Euston route provided by London Midland; and if he will make a statement. [266589]

Paul Clark: The Secretary of State met recently with the Chairman of the Office of Rail Regulation, when the reliability of services on the West Coast Main Line was raised. The Office of Rail Regulation is giving particular attention to monitoring Network Rail's performance on the route.

Michael Fabricant: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what assessment he has made of the reliability of the London Midland train service on the Crewe-Euston route on *(a)* weekdays and *(b)* Sundays. [266789]

Paul Clark: In the year to 28 February 2009 London Midland achieved an average punctuality of 86.5 per cent. across the franchise as a whole and 81.6 per cent. during the four weeks ending on that date. Performance on the Crewe to Euston route has been below this level.

Improving rail performance is a key objective for the Department for Transport. Joint action plans are in place between Network Rail and London Midland to address performance issues. London Midland has also developed an Improvement Plan, progress against which is monitored regularly. The Minster of State, Lord Adonis, meets senior representatives of the Rail Industry every four weeks to discuss performance.

Reliability of the London Midland train service on the West Coast Main Line route from Crewe to Euston has been a particular concern recently. Both Network Rail and the train operators on the route are being urged to seek improvements in punctuality and reliability.

BUSINESS, ENTERPRISE AND REGULATORY REFORM

Arms Trade

Dr. Starkey: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform pursuant to the evidence of the Economic and Business Minister to the Committee on Arms Export Controls on 21 January 2009, HC 178-i, how many licence applications *(a)* have been made and *(b)* are still current for head-up display units since 2002, broken down by country of destination; and how many such applications have been approved by country of destination. [254162]

Ian Pearson: The Government publish summary details of export licences issued, refused and revoked in their annual and quarterly reports on strategic export controls. This is broken down by destination, including a summary of the items covered by these licences, and where appropriate, the criteria against which the licence has been refused. Standard individual export licences (SIELs) are generally valid for two years from the date of issue, and open individual export licences (OIELs) generally for five years from the date of issue.

The Government's annual reports, published since 1997, and quarterly reports, published since 2004, are available from the House of Commons Library and the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) website at:

http://www.fco.gov.uk/en/about-the-fco/publications/publications/annual-reports/export-controls1

The latest date for which information is available is 30 September 2008.

Head-up displays will be included in the goods description "military aircraft head-up displays". The reports do not break down goods descriptions beyond this level of detail.

Jeremy Corbyn: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform with reference to the answer to the hon. Member for Sherwood of 8 July 2002, *Official Report*, column 653W, on export licences, whether licences are still being granted for export to the United States of components for *(a)* F-16 aircraft and *(b)* Apache helicopters destined for Israel; and if he will make a statement. [253722]

Ian Pearson *[holding answer 3 February 2009]:* The Government publish detailed information on export licences issued, refused and revoked by destination, including value and a summary of the items covered by these licences, in their annual and quarterly reports on strategic export controls. Information on export licences issued for incorporation before onward export is given separately for each destination in the Reports. The Government's annual reports, published since 1997, and quarterly reports published since 2004, are available from the Libraries of the House and the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) website at:

http://www.fco.gov.uk/en/about-the-fco/publications/publications/annual-reports/export-controls1

Any such export licence applications would be considered, on a case by case basis against the Consolidated EU and National Arms Export Licensing Criteria and all relevant information and circumstances at the time of the application, while at the same time having regard to the factors listed in my right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary's statement of 8 July 2002 setting out the Government's approach to UK exports for incorporation and onward export.

Better Regulation Executive: Public Consultation

John Penrose: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many policy suggestions have been submitted by members of the public via the tool on the Better Regulation Executive's website; and how many of these have been *(a)* considered and *(b)* implemented. [266928]

Ian Pearson: The better regulation website was upgraded in May 2007 so that official responses from the relevant Government Department are provided to the originator within 90 days and published on the website.

Since that refresh there have been 622 suggestions submitted through the website from members of the public, SMEs and trade organisations to date. Of these suggestions 535 have been considered suitable for further consideration by Government Departments. Those not considered further include those with incomplete/false information, statements, commercial endorsements and other unsuitable material.

Of the 535 suggestions considered further:

26 are still under consideration by the relevant Government Department

86 were responded to by alternative means. When the idea is not a better regulation idea Government Departments respond as a 'Treat Official' directly to the suggestion originator

10 were responded to previously. When the same idea has already been put forward suggestion originators are sent the original response

294 after analysis by the relevant Government Department were not considered suitable to be taken forward for the reasons set out in the individual official response provided directly to all suggestion originators and posted on www.betterregulation.gov.uk

119 have been taken forward (approx 20 per cent.)

The 119 taken forward include:

Ideas incorporated into consultation

Ideas requiring further consideration (after 90 day official response time)

Ideas that were already being looked at by Government

Ideas implemented (approx 25 per cent.)

British Bankers Association

Mr. Amess: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what meetings to discuss the economy *(a)* the Secretary of State, *(b)* he, *(c)* other Ministers in his Department and *(d)* officials in his Department have had with the British Bankers' Association in each week since June 2007; what the (i) location and (ii) duration of each meeting was; whether a record of each meeting was kept; who attended each meeting; what the cost of each meeting was, broken down by (A) administrative and (B) other costs; and if he will make a statement. [256578]

Ian Pearson: My noble Friend the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Competitiveness and Small Business is the only BERR Minister to have had a meeting with the British Bankers Association. There was no formal agenda. Many officials including the Permanent Secretary have also had meetings with them to discuss a range of subjects which are the responsibility of this Department.

Broadband

Andrew Miller: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform if he will take steps to ensure that provisions for wider availability of broadband access, referred to in the Digital Britain interim report, include mechanisms for widening public engagement with Parliament. [267283]

Mr. McFadden: The Digital Britain Report is looking at how to deliver universal access to broadband and options for maximising participation across the UK as well as looking to ensure that public services online are designed for ease of use by the widest range of citizens. However, the way in which we in Parliament engage with the public on-line is a matter for Parliament. The Digital Britain report should help to make that engagement more inclusive and ensure that all citizens can access it.

Business Link

Tom Brake: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many calls were *(a)* received and *(b)* answered by Business Link in each region in each of the last 12 months for which information is available. [247532]

Ian Pearson: The number of calls received and answered by Business Link in each region in 2008 is shown in the table.

Number

	North West	*North East*	*Yorkshire*	*East Midlands*	*West Midlands*	*East of England*	*London*	*South East*	*South West*	*Total*
Received	36,636	34,562	63,040	38,326	61,160	60,000	44,928	65,544	47,134	451,330
Answered	34,697	33,048	62,066	36,433	60,543	60,000	43,116	63,140	47,134	440,177

The data are not available month by month and could be produced only at disproportionate cost. Data are unavailable prior to this date. Data for East of England have been rounded. Every call should be answered, in the first instance, via a customer service representative. During high call periods or after hours calls are picked up by an overflow or after hours service with callers contacted as soon as possible.

Business: Government Assistance

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what steps he plans to take to help small and medium-sized enterprises during the recession. [257543]

Ian Pearson: On 14 January 2009 we launched a wide range of measures to support businesses in the current economic climate, building upon the commitments we made in the pre-Budget report on 24 November 2008. Small and medium-sized businesses can find information and support at:

http://www.businesslink.gov.uk/realhelp

or by contacting the Business Link Helpline on 0845 6009006.

Since the Guarantee became operational on 14 January 2009 we have seen the value of eligible cases rise tenfold. These have now reached the stage where:

the value of eligible cases has increased from £3 million in week one to over £31 million in week eight;

the network of approved lenders has expanded from eight to 26, providing access across the whole of the UK; and

as of 25 March lenders have logged over 1,600 eligible cases with a value of over £175 million.

Our current weekly rate of eligible cases puts us on track to support £1.3 billion of lending to small businesses by end March 2010.

The Capital for Enterprise Fund is a £75 million fund (£50 million in Government funds and agreement to an additional £25 million from Lloyds, Barclays, HSBC and RBS) targeted at small and medium businesses that have exhausted their normal borrowing capacity. The fund will be delivered by commercial fund managers and they are undertaking diligence on the business they will invest in. 231 businesses have registered their interest in the Capital for Enterprise Fund, of which 42 businesses, with a funding requirement of over £35 million, have met the eligibility criteria and supplied all the required information.

Joan Ryan: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what steps his Department is taking to increase awareness of the *(a)* enterprise finance guarantee scheme and *(b)* working capital scheme. [260189]

Ian Pearson *[holding answer 2 March 2009]:* The Government's Real Help campaign publicises a range of support available to business, including the Enterprise Finance Guarantee. Businesses may find out about measures offering real help for businesses including an initial eligibility check via the Business Link website at:

www.businesslink.gov.uk/realhelp/finance

or by speaking to their local Business Link adviser on 0845 600 9 006.

There have been more than 255,000 visits to the Real Help campaign page on businesslink.gov since the launch of the campaign. 59,023 of those visited the Real Help with Finance webpage.

The Enterprise Finance Guarantee is delivered through participating lenders and we are working closely with them to ensure that they are doing all they can to promote the guarantee scheme across their branches.

The working capital scheme will provide banks with guarantees covering 50 per cent. of the risk on existing and new working capital portfolios worth up to £20 billion and is therefore not an instrument that is available directly to individual businesses.

Stewart Hosie: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform when the Enterprise Finance Guarantee Scheme began to operate. [261373]

Ian Pearson: The Enterprise Finance Guarantee came into operation on 14 January 2009.

Mr. Weir: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what steps the Government is taking to promote the Enterprise Finance Guarantee Scheme. [265953]

Ian Pearson: The Government's Real Help campaign publicises a range of support available to business, including the Enterprise Finance Guarantee. Businesses may find out about measures offering real help for businesses including an initial eligibility check via the Business Link website:

www.businesslink.gov.uk/realhelp/finance

or by speaking to their local Business Link adviser on 0845 600 9 006.

There have been more than 255,000 visits to the Real Help campaign page on businesslink.gov since the launch of the campaign. 59,023 of those visited the Real Help with Finance webpage.

The Enterprise Finance Guarantee is delivered through participating lenders and we are working closely with them to ensure that they are doing all they can to promote the guarantee scheme across their branches.

Mr. Weir: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what representations the Government has received from the British Chambers of Commerce in respect of the Enterprise Finance Guarantee Scheme. [265954]

Ian Pearson: The monthly Small Business Finance Forum, set up in November 2008, brings together Government, banks and small businesses to have an informed debate on issues pertaining to financial conditions facing banks and small businesses, including on EFG, and an opportunity to openly raise concerns. Membership of the forum consists of the main banks, the Bank of England, the BBA and the key small business representative bodies including the British Chamber of Commerce.

Business: Wales

Mrs. Gillan: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many companies in Wales have *(a)* applied for and *(b)* received assistance under the Capital for Enterprise Fund in each of the last six months. [261984]

Ian Pearson: The Capital for Enterprise Fund was launched as part of the package Real Help for Business on 14 January 2009. Five companies located in Wales and who meet the broad fund criteria are currently being considered for investment. Investments will be made as due diligence, commercial discussions and legal agreements are completed.

Mrs. Gillan: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many companies in Wales have *(a)* applied for and *(b)* received help under the Working Capital Scheme since its inception. [261986]

Ian Pearson: The Working Capital Scheme is not available directly to businesses. The scheme enables participating banks to increase the amount of working capital they can make available to businesses.

Capital Enterprise Scheme

Stewart Hosie: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many applications have been made to the Capital Enterprise Scheme. [256178]

Ian Pearson: The Capital for Enterprise Fund (CfEF) is targeted at small businesses who have exhausted their traditional borrowing capacity. The CfEF will provide £75 million of equity to these businesses.

As at 25 March 2009, there have been 1,013 inquires to the Capital for Enterprise Fund Registration Helpline with 311 businesses seriously exploring whether the fund may be of benefit to them.

253 businesses have registered their interest in the Fund and out of these 51 businesses have met the eligibility criteria and have supplied all the required information.

Child Care Vouchers

Mrs. Maria Miller: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform whether organisations which offer salary sacrifice child care vouchers are required to offer child care vouchers when employees are on maternity, paternity and parental leave. [268638]

Mr. McFadden: During ordinary maternity leave (weeks 1-26) an employee is entitled to benefit from all the normal terms and conditions of her employment except wages and salary. For women whose babies are due on or after 5 October 2008, this entitlement continues during additional maternity leave (weeks 27-52).

During statutory paternity leave, an employee is entitled to benefit from all the normal terms and conditions of his employment except wages and salary.

Examples of benefits that should continue include any company car, contractual annual leave or child care vouchers that are provided as part of the contract of employment. This is true, even if the benefit is linked to salary sacrifice arrangement.

During parental leave, only certain terms and conditions of employment continue. This would not include any right to child care vouchers.

Christmas

Mr. Rob Wilson: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform whether it is his Department's policy to offer staff *(a)* additional leave entitlement for Christmas shopping and *(b)* Christmas bonus payments. [262814]

Mr. McFadden: The Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform (BERR) does not have a policy which *(a)* provides additional leave entitlement for Christmas shopping or *(b)* Christmas bonus payments.

Clemmow Hornby Inge Partners

Norman Baker: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what contracts his Department has awarded to Clemmow Hornby Inge Partners since 1 January 2007; and on what dates *(a)* Ministers and *(b)* officials in his Department have met representatives of Clemmow Hornby Inge Partners since that date. [267847]

Mr. McFadden *[holding answer 30 March 2009]:* Central records indicate that no contracts have been awarded to Clemmow Hornby Inge Partners by this Department since 1 January 2007 nor have they worked on any BERR business since then. There is no record of Ministers or officials meeting Clemmow Hornby Inge Partners since 1 January 2007.

Construction: Billing

Mrs. Curtis-Thomas: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what steps he plans to take to ensure that payments to subcontractors of tier one contractors on construction projects funded from the public purse are made within 10 days of receipt of invoice. [258748]

Ian Pearson *[holding answer 25 February 2009]:* Government Departments are required to pay all invoices within 10 days and tier 1 contractors are required by contract to pay their invoices within 30 days. Departments are however, encouraging all their tier 1 contractors, including those on construction projects, to pass on the 10-day payment terms in the head contract to their subcontractors.

Construction: Manpower

Mr. Holloway: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what estimate he has made of the proportion of workers in the bricklaying industry who are *(a)* British citizens, *(b)* nationals of (i) A8 countries, (ii) A2 countries and (iii) other EU countries and *(c)* non-EU nationals. [267735]

Ian Pearson: This Department does not collect this information.

Departmental Detergents

Annette Brooke: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform if he will make it his policy to ensure that no cleaning products or ingredients of cleaning products used by his Department have been tested on animals. [261134]

Mr. McFadden: This Department's current contract with our cleaning services provider states that all cleaning products used should be environmentally friendly as per Office of Government Commerce guidance.

Departmental Electronic Equipment

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many *(a)* BlackBerrys and *(b)* mobile telephones were provided to (i) Ministers, (ii) special advisers and (iii) civil servants in his Department in each year since 2005. [266327]

Mr. McFadden: The information is as follows:

(a) The Department has deployed BlackBerry services to staff since 2006 through the Office of Government Commerce's mobile telecommunication services contract. From the records available the total number of BlackBerry services provided each year since 2006 has been:

	Ministers	*Special Advisers*	*Other Staff*
2006	0	0	60
2007	4	4	306
2008	5	5	336

	Ministers	*Special Advisers*	*Other Staff*
2009	6	5	430

(b) The Department uses the Office of Government Commerce's mobile telecommunication services contract to provide official mobile telephones to staff. No detailed information is available on the total number of services that have been deployed to Ministers and their special advisers. During this period all Ministers and special advisers have had access to mobile telephones from a central pool of handsets operated by the ministerial offices. Information on the total number of mobile telephone services provided to all BERR staff each year is only held from 2008.

	Total number of staff mobiles provided
2008	949
2009	921

Departmental Manpower

Justine Greening: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many *(a)* permanent, *(b)* agency and *(c)* temporary staff on contracts of (i) up to three months, (ii) between three and six months, (iii) between six and 12 months and (iv) 12 months or more there are in each directorate of his Department. [264317]

Mr. McFadden: We do not hold this information in the form requested and it could be obtained only at a disproportionate cost.

Departmental Postal Services

Mr. Jenkins: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many items of correspondence his Department sent by *(a)* Royal Mail and *(b)* other commercial delivery services in each of the last five years; and what the reasons were for the use of services other than Royal Mail. [264535]

Mr. McFadden: This Department has sent the following number of items via Royal Mail first and second class post over the last five financial years from its central London buildings:

	Number of items sent
2003-04	526,654
2004-05	341,761
2005-06	271,396
2006-07	194,831
2007-08	68,923

BERR have not used another commercial delivery service. Information sent from BERR offices outside of central London is not available centrally.

Departmental Public Expenditure

Grant Shapps: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what resource funds his Department has brought forward from its *(a)* 2009-10 and *(b)* 2010-11 budgets for use in (i) 2008-09 and (ii) 2009-10; and what schemes this funding is being used to support. [267401]

Mr. McFadden: No resource spending has been brought forward at the present time.

Details of BERR's capital spend were given in my answer to the hon. Member for Brecon and Radnorshire (Mr. Williams) on 12 January 2009, *Official Report*, columns reference 451-52W.

No capital expenditure has been brought forward.

Departmental Publications

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what estimate he has made of the *(a)* production and printing and *(b)* other costs to his Department of producing its most recent (i) departmental annual report and (ii) autumn performance report. [266701]

Mr. McFadden: BERR produces an 'Annual Report and Accounts', combining the Departmental Report and Resource Accounts. We estimate the costs of production and printing for the BERR Annual Report and Accounts 2007-08 to have been £33,278. This figure includes design, typesetting and printing.

The BERR Autumn Performance Report 2008 was published online;

http://www.berr.gov.uk/aboutus/corporate/performance/servicestandards/performancereports/page24986.html.

We estimate the costs of production, and printing of a limited number of hard copies, to have been £378.75.

East of England Development Agency: Equality

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what estimate he has made of the cost to his Department of conducting equality impact assessments in respect of the East of England Development Agency in 2008-09; and if he will make a statement. [267755]

Mr. McFadden: Equality impact assessments form an integral part of the East of England Development Agency's project planning process, and as a result a disaggregated figure is not available.

Economic Situation

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what recent steps the Government has taken to work with trade unions and employers to minimise the effects of the economic downturn on employees. [258235]

Mr. McFadden *[holding answer 23 February 2009]:* My noble Friend the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform meets regularly with Brendan Barber, General Secretary of the TUC and other union leaders. BERR Ministers have also met with trade union leaders to discuss sector specific issues (e.g. automotive). Union representatives may also be present at discussions on company specific issues. Other Government Departments also work with trade unions and employers.

Electoral Commission: Codes of Practice

Mr. Maude: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform pursuant to the answer of 16 December 2008, *Official Report*, column 601W, on regulation: departmental co-ordination, whether the Code of Practice on Guidance applies to the Electoral Commission when it issues regulatory guidance that affects *(a)* political parties and *(b)* other voluntary organisations. [250218]

Ian Pearson: The code of practice on guidance is not intended to apply when guidance is issued to political parties by the Electoral Commission.

Enterprise Finance Guarantee Scheme

Mr. Prisk: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many firms have applied for funding under the Enterprise Finance Guarantee Scheme since its creation; and how much has been lent under the scheme to date. [253633]

Ian Pearson: Since the launch of the Enterprise Finance Guarantee on 14 January 2009, as of 25 March, over 1,600 businesses have made eligible applications for a value of nearly £175 million which has been offered, being assessed or processed.

Stewart Hosie: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many applications have been made to the Enterprise Finance Guarantee Scheme. [256176]

Ian Pearson: Since the launch of the Enterprise Finance Guarantee on 14 January 2009, as of 25 March in total there have been 1,882 cases recorded on web portal inquiring about the guarantee. As of 25 March, over 1,600 businesses have made eligible applications for a value of nearly £175 million which has been offered, assessed or processed.

Stewart Hosie: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what the monetary value of secured loans under the Enterprise Finance Guarantee Scheme is. [256177]

Ian Pearson: Enterprise Finance Guarantee was launched on 14 January 2009 and is available from 26 approved lenders including all the main UK high street banks. EFG enables businesses to secure loans of between £1,000 and £1 million.

Since the launch of the Enterprise Finance Guarantee, as of 25 March, over 1,600 businesses have made eligible applications for a value of nearly £175 million which has been offered, assessed or processed.

Farmers: Government Assistance

Tim Farron: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform for what reasons farmers are not eligible for assistance under the Enterprise Finance Guarantee Scheme. [257503]

Ian Pearson *[holding answer 23 February 2009]:* The eligibility criteria are based primarily on the business type and/or loan purpose rather than the profession of the borrower. There are no EFG restrictions in relation to farmers. There are, however, eligibility criteria and restrictions in relation to agriculture and horticulture which are based on the relevant EU de minimis state aid rules (1535/2007 and 1998/2006).

From 1 March 2009, the general EFG eligibility criteria in relation to businesses in the agricultural sector will be as follows:

Activities related to primary agricultural and horticultural production are eligible for EFG, will be is subject to a lower de minimis aid threshold. The exception being:

> When the amount of aid is fixed on the basis of the price or quantity of products put on the market.

The processing and marketing of agricultural products (beyond simply preparation for sale and packaging) is eligible for EFG, subject to the full de minimis aid threshold. Exceptions:

> When the amount of the aid is fixed on the basis of the price or quantity of such products purchased from primary producers or put on the market by the undertakings concerned.
>
> When the aid is conditional on being partly or entirely passed on to primary producers.

Ultimately, however, decisions on individual lending rest with the lender. After making the commercial decision to lend according to their own criteria, all lenders use a common web portal to administer the eligibility criteria. Lenders also assess the extent of the 'grant equivalent' de minimis state aid to the borrower arising from the guaranteed loan and this is communicated to the borrower in the state aid letter.

Housing: Construction

Grant Shapps: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how much each regional development agency contributed to housing schemes in each year since 2000. [265277]

Mr. McFadden: Apart from the LDA, the RDAs do not provide specific funding for housing schemes. In some cases, RDAs will have contributed indirectly through supporting mixed-use developments but where this has been the case, housing schemes have been ancillary to commercial space and delivered as a secondary benefit. Therefore, to separate these costs on a consistent basis would incur disproportionate cost.

The following table shows LDA figures. Figures from 2003-04 onwards include contributions made on behalf of Olympic Land Assembly.

	£ million
2000-01	86.2
2001-02	98.2
2002-03	87.5
2003-04	50.1
2004-05	34.4
2005-06	25.5
2006-07	17.9
2007-08	15.0

India: Overseas Trade

Mr. Amess: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how much trade with India contributed to the UK's gross domestic product in each of the last five years. [268509]

Mr. Thomas: Due to the difficulty of differentiating between the impact of trade and other factors, it is not possible to quantify precisely the impact of trade with another country on GDP.

The following table indicates the scale of UK trade in goods and services with India for the years 2004-08 as a proportion of GDP:

Percentage

	2004	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*
UK exports to India: percentage of UK GDP at market prices	0.27	0.32	0.33	0.33	0.41
UK imports from India: percentage of UK GDP at market prices	0.28	0.33	0.36	0.40	0.43

Source:
BERR Statistics and Analysis Unit

Mr. Amess: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform when *(a)* he, *(b)* Ministers in his Department and *(c)* his officials last met the Chairman of the UK-India Business Council to discuss trade between the UK and India; on what dates the next such meetings are planned; and if he will make a statement. [268518]

Mr. Thomas: I last met with the chairman of the UK India Business Council on 11 February 2009. My noble Friend the Secretary of State last met him on 1 December 2008.

Officials last met him on 10 March 2009 at a UK India Business Council Board meeting and will continue to meet him on a regular basis.

Insolvency

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what assessment his Department has made of the effects of the practice of pre-pack administration on the creditors and customers of companies which undertake the practice. [259870]

Mr. McFadden: Whether to do a pre-pack is a matter for the commercial judgment of the administrator, on a case by case basis. Administrators have a duty to act in the best interest of creditors and a pre-pack can often be the best way of preserving the business and jobs of the insolvent company.

The Government have not undertaken research or made any assessment of the impact pre-packs have on creditors or consumers.

Mr. Austin Mitchell: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many liquidations which commenced *(a)* 10 or more and *(b)* 15 or more years ago have not been finalised; and if he will make a statement. [261584]

Mr. McFadden: There are 20,721 liquidations that commenced more than 10 years ago and have not been finalised, of which, 17,058 commenced more than 15 years ago.

LDV: Finance

Mr. Jenkins: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how much funding has been provided to the LDV Group for investment in lower carbon technology since 27 January 2009. [264536]

Ian Pearson: None, but as with other automotive companies with a turnover in excess of £25 million, LDV is eligible to apply to the Automotive Assistance Programme (AAP) which opened for applications on 27 February 2007.

Maternity Leave

Mrs. Maria Miller: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what estimate he has made of the number and proportion of employed women who are employed and have no entitlement to maternity leave. [268637]

Mr. McFadden: All pregnant employees are entitled to 52 weeks maternity leave.

Motor Industry: Government Assistance

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what progress his Department has made on its scheme for administering loans from the European Investment Bank to companies in the automotive industry for lower carbon initiatives; and if he will make a statement. [261624]

Ian Pearson: BERR does not administer automotive loans from the European Investment Bank (EIB). However, the UK's Automotive Assistance programme (AAP) which opened for business on 27 February could potentially receive applications for the provision of guarantees for EIB loans to UK automotive companies.

Motor Vehicles: Government Assistance

Mr. Burstow: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what recent discussions his Department has had with *(a)* HM Treasury and *(b)* the Bank of England on action to safeguard the motor industry; for what reasons the Secretary of State said on 12 March 2009 that he wished that such discussions had gone quicker than they had; and if he will make a statement. [264417]

Ian Pearson: BERR Ministers and officials have had a number of discussions with the Treasury and the Bank of England about action to safeguard the motor industry. In particular, Lord Davies has met with various stakeholders as part of his work on possible options to help improve the flow of liquidity to car finance companies. The Secretary of State's comments that he wished discussions had progressed faster reflect BERR's aim of helping viable businesses overcome the current difficult circumstances.

Motor Vehicles: Waste Disposal

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform whether he plans to introduce a car scrappage scheme. [261431]

Ian Pearson: The Government have received proposals from the automotive industry for a scrappage scheme—where individuals are given a financial incentive for purchasing new vehicles in exchange for scrapping old, less environmentally friendly vehicles—as a way to increase demand. Government are considering the costs and evidence on positive and negative impacts; including the experiences in other European member states such as Germany.

Regional Development Agencies

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform with reference to the Pre-Budget Report 2008, what recent assessment he has made of the progress of each regional development agency in allocating the £100 million brought forward from their budgets to assist regional economic development; and if he will make a statement. [261512]

Mr. McFadden: As part of the pre-Budget report, RDAs were enabled to bring forward, on a voluntary basis, up to £100 million capital spend from 2010-11 to 2009-10 as part of the Government's fiscal stimulus. BERR and CLG are working with RDAs to agree the projects they might be able to bring forward. RDAs expect to be able to use most of the flexibility allowed.

Risk and Regulation Advisory Council

John Penrose: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform on how many occasions the Risk and Regulation Advisory Council has met since its creation; what recommendations it has made to Ministers; and how many of these recommendations have been implemented. [266929]

Ian Pearson: The Risk and Regulation Advisory Council has met formally 15 times since it was established in January 2008. In addition council members have led a significant number of other events and meetings.

Part of the methodology of the RRAC is to work with diverse stakeholders in government and across British society to build consensus in public risk issues through workshop-based experiential learning. The council's focus has been on building that consensus rather than making formal recommendations.

The RRAC's work has involved Ministers in the Cabinet Office, the Home Office, the Department for Work and Pensions, the Department of Health, and others, as important players in their respective fields. Case studies have focussed on risk aversion in policing, implementation of appropriate health and safety measures by small organisations, and the promotion of community resilience. The consensus on appropriate policy action, which emerges from on-going work facilitated by the RRAC, has been discussed with relevant Ministers and other key stakeholders including the heads of ACPO, HMIC and HSE, to allow better coordination, development and adaptation of new and existing policies where necessary.

The RRAC's period of operation ends in April 2009. Soon after this the council will publish further information on the case studies, as well as a report summarising the findings of the RRAC. Specific recommendations may be published at this time, both in relation to areas studied in depth, and as a consequence of overarching conclusions the council have been able to draw on how government and society might better respond to public risk.

John Penrose: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what annual budget was allocated to the Risk and Regulation Advisory Council in the last year for which figures are available; and how much was budgeted for, including on *(a)* council members' salaries, (b) council members' expenses and (c) secretarial and administrative costs. [266930]

Ian Pearson: The Risk and Regulation Advisory Council was set up in January 2008 for a time-limited period, with its period of full-scale operation due to end in April 2009. The RRAC's only full financial year of operation is therefore 2008-09. As this financial year is not yet completed, the following figures are the best indicative figures available currently.

The total annual budget allocated for the RRAC in 2008-09 was £463,000.

(a) The seven council members are unpaid volunteers, and receive no salary from the RRAC.

(b) Total expenses reimbursed to all council members in 2008-09 are forecast to be £1,400.

(c) Secretarial and administrative costs budgeted for the RRAC for 2008-09, comprised of staff salaries and associated costs for the support team in BERR, are £258,000.

Other costs accounted for within the 2008-09 budget relate to the council's forum events, research, publications and public relations.

Royal Mail

Emily Thornberry: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what his most recent estimate is of the cost of modernising Royal Mail. [268187]

Mr. McFadden: Royal Mail has spent or committed £600 million on modernisation so far and expects to draw down the full £1.2 billion of debt facilities Government have made available to it over the next two years to fund its existing modernisation plans.

However, Royal Mail needs to modernise further and faster if it is to cope with the challenges it faces. It will also need to find new sources of revenue by moving into new areas of business. It is clear Royal Mail will need more capital but in such a fast developing market it is not possible to give a precise indication of the amount, however it is likely to be in the order of hundreds of millions of pounds.

Emily Thornberry: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform if he will put in place mechanisms to prevent onward sale of shares in Royal Mail which are sold to a preferred partner. [268188]

Mr. McFadden: It is expected that the legally binding agreements to be agreed between HMG and its preferred partner will place restrictions on any shares sold to the partner. The detail of these arrangements will be subject to negotiation with the successful bidder.

Royal Mail: Pensions

Mr. Marsden: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many meetings the Chair of Royal Mail's pension fund has had with Mr. Richard Hooper since he published his report. [260127]

Mr. McFadden *[holding answer 2 March 2009]:* Richard Hooper's review of the postal services sector was submitted last year and published on 16 December 2008. Since then, I understand that Jane Newell, chair of Royal Mail Pension Trustees, and Richard Hooper have met once, on 3 March 2009.

This was a private engagement and not part of the review process.

Saudi Arabia: Arms Trade

Dr. Cable: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform pursuant to the answer of 10 March 2009, *Official Report*, columns 397-8W, on Saudi Arabia: arms trade, whether there is any extant cover for *(a)* the Salam Project and *(b)* any other BAE Systems' military sales to Saudi Arabia; and if he will make a statement. [267772]

Ian Pearson *[holding answer 30 March 2009]:* ECGD currently provides no support for any BAE Systems contracts in Saudi Arabia.

Small Business Finance Scheme

Tony Baldry: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform by what means businesses in Banbury constituency may access the Small Business Finance Scheme. [240399]

Ian Pearson: The Small Business Finance scheme announced in the pre-Budget report was launched as the Enterprise Finance Guarantee on 14 January 2009 and is available from 26 approved lenders including all the main UK high street banks.

Businesses across the UK have access to a comprehensive range of support through Real Help Now, including the Enterprise Finance Guarantee Scheme and the Capital for Enterprise Fund. These schemes can be accessed through:

www.businesslink.gov.uk/realhelp

Small Businesses

Mr. Prisk: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many meetings of the *(a)* Small Business Lending Monitoring Panel, *(b)* Small Business Lending Forum, *(c)* Regional Risk Finance Forum, *(d)* West Midlands Council of Economic Advisers and *(e)* Joint Economic Commission for the North West have taken place to date; who the members of each of the bodies are; and if he will place in the Library a copy of the minutes of each meeting. [253639]

Ian Pearson: The SME Lending Monitoring Panel has met on five occasions and the Small Business Finance Forum (SBFF) have met on four occasions.

The SME Lending Monitoring Panel discusses commercially sensitive data and as such no minutes are published. It is made up of officials from the Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform, the Bank of England and HM Treasury.

The SBFF is an informal body and minutes of proceedings are not published.

It is comprised of UK banks (RBS, Barclays, HBOS, Abbey, Lloyds TSB, HSBC, Clydesdale & Yorkshire Bank), the Bank of England, the British Bankers' Association (BBA), key small business representative bodies (CBI, BCC, IoD, FSB, FPB, SEC, EEF, FLA) as well as individual entrepreneurs and small businesses. They also include representation from the regional development agencies (RDAs), the devolved Administrations, BERR's Access to Finance Expert Group, the Women's Enterprise Taskforce, the Ethnic Minority Business Taskforce, the Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform, and HM Treasury.

The Regional Risk Forum has been meeting in the East Midlands since 2002. However the recorded dates of meetings only goes back to 16 June 2005.

The following dates are the recorded dates for the East Midlands Risk Forum:

2005: 16 June and 4 October

2006: 14 February, 20 June and 21 November

2007: 27 February, 26 June and 2 October

2008: 5 February, 20 May, 7 October and 1 December

2009: 3 March.

The minutes of any meeting held contain commercially sensitive information and cannot therefore be released. The current membership of the group includes:

Member	
Steve Brown (Chair)	East Midlands Development Agency
Jeff Moore	East Midlands Development Agency
Adrian Fern	Royal Bank of Scotland
Angus Ferris	Advantage Transition Bridge Fund Limited
Barrie Egan	Business Link East Midlands
Chris Brown	Bank of England
David Browne	Cooper Parry
George Caldicott	Advantage Transition Bridge Fund Limited
John Griffiths	Connect Midlands
Jonathan Lowe	East Midlands Development Agency
Leo Magee	Lloyds Banking Group
Penny Attridge	The Lachesis Fund
Robert Candron	East Midlands Early Growth Fund

Member	
Steve Blount	Growth Investment Network East Midlands
Mike Bowman	East Midlands Early Growth Fund
Nick Wright	East Midlands Early Growth Fund
Paul Bevan	Tenon
Justin Brown	Lincolnshire county council
Rob Carroll	Catapult Venture Managers Limited
Karen Hickling	Barclays Bank
Graham Mold	Catapult Venture Managers Limited
John White	East Midlands Early Growth Fund

The first meeting of the West Midlands Council of Regional Economic Advisers took place on 7 November 2008. Further meetings took place on 2 January and 2 February 2009.

The members of the council are as follows:

	Member
Government	Ian Austin MP—Regional Minister (Chair)
	Pat McFadden MP—Minister of State, BERR
	Ian Pearson MP—Minister of State, BERR and Economic Secretary to the Treasury
	Sion Simon MP—Parliamentary Under-Secretary, DIUS
	Trudi Elliott, Regional Director, GOWM
Advantage West Midlands	Nick Paul—Chairman
	Mick Laverty—Chief Executive
	Richard Hutchins—Corporate Director, Economic Development
Key Business Representation	Chris Clifford—Regional Director, CBI West Midlands
	Simon Topman—Chair, West Midlands Chambers of Commerce
	Barrie Williams—Chairman, West Midlands Business Council
	David Caro—Chairman, Federation of Small Businesses
	Martin Wassell—Regional Director, Engineering Employers Federation
	Richard Beet—Chairman, Institute of Directors West Midlands
	Mohammed Nazir—Chair, West Midlands Minority Ethnic Business Forum
	Ben Reid—Chair, West Midlands Learning and Skills Council
Trade Unions	Gerard Coyne—Regional Secretary, Unite West Midlands
	Roger McKenzie—Regional Secretary, TUC West Midlands
Local Government	Cllr Roger Philips—Leader of the Regional Forum of Leaders (Herefordshire county council)
	Cllr Ken Taylor—Chair, West Midlands Local Government Association
	Mark Barrow—Chief Executive, Newcastle-under-Lyme council
Professional Services	Norman Price—Chairman of the Regional Finance Forum and Enterprise Board
	Richard Brennan—Chief Executive, Birmingham Forward

Minutes of these meetings are confidential.

The Joint Economic Commission for the North West has met four times. It is jointly chaired by the Regional Minister, the right hon. Beverley Hughes MP and the Chair of the NWDA, Bryan Gray. The member organisations are:

Government office for the North West
Leaders' Forum (4NW)
North West Development Agency
Voluntary Sector North West
CBI North West
Federation of Small Businesses
North West Business Leadership Team
Greater Manchester Chamber of Commerce
North West TUC
Private Sector Partners NW
NHS NorthWest
Jobcentre Plus
Learning and Skills Council
Homes and Communities Agency
Highways Agency
North West Universities Association
Environment Agency.

The agreed actions from each meeting are available on Government office for the North West's website:

http://www.gos.gov.uk/gonw

and copies can be placed in the Library.

Small Businesses: Billing

Mr. Greg Knight: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform (1) what steps he has taken to ensure that Government departments, local authorities and health trusts are complying with his policy to pay small and medium-sized enterprises within 10 days; [246108]

(2) what assistance has been provided to local authorities and health trusts to enable them to meet the new payment target of 10 days for small and medium-sized enterprises. [246106]

Ian Pearson *[holding answer 12 January 2009]:* The Prime Minister set a new target for all central Government Departments to pay within 10 days on 8 October 2008. The Local Government Association and the NHS chief executive are leading on promoting best payment practice across local authorities and the NHS trusts respectively. The Department is working with all central Departments to identify and disseminate best practice.

Central Government Departments will be reporting their performance against the 10 day target in their annual reports, mirroring current arrangements for reporting performance against the 30 day target. Performance will be measured for payment to all suppliers, regardless of size.

We are also supporting business to business prompt payment—in November 2008, we published a series of managing cashflow guides and in December 2008 we supported the launch of a new prompt payment code by the Institute of Credit Management. Since January 2009, there have been over 46,000 downloads of the guides and over 150 companies have signed up to the code.

On 13 May 2009 we will be hosting a prompt payment event for the FTSE 100 companies to secure their support for the prompt payment code.

Small Businesses: Brewing Industry

Mr. Evans: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many micro-brewery businesses were operating in the UK in each of the last 10 years. [260495]

Ian Pearson *[holding answer 5 March 2009]:* Micro breweries are part of the Standard Industrial Classification (2003) manufacture of beverages category (SIC 159). Details of the number of businesses in this category over the last 10 years with at least one employee can be found at:

http://stats.berr.gov.uk/ed/sme/

It is not possible to break these figures down further to establish the number of micro brewery businesses.

The ONS publication 'UK Business: Activity, Size and Location' provides figures on the number of micro businesses (micro businesses are those with 0 to nine employees) whose main business activity is the manufacture of beer (SIC 1596). The publication covers only those businesses that are registered for VAT and/or PAYE in 2008 and those who are registered for VAT in 2007 and earlier years. It therefore misses the smallest businesses that are registered for neither VAT nor PAYE. The data are available on a consistent basis for the past six years and are shown in the following table.

	Number of VAT-registered (all years) and/or PAYE-Registered (2008 only) micro businesses (0 to nine employees) where the main business activity is the manufacture of beer (SIC 1596)
2008	410
2007	340
2006	295
2005	260
2004	225
2003	200

Small Businesses: Finance

Mr. David Anderson: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what steps his Department is taking to monitor the interest rates charged to small businesses on loans guaranteed under the enterprise finance guarantee scheme. [264953]

Ian Pearson: As with a commercial loan, any interest rates charged by the lenders in connection with an EFG loan is a matter for the lenders. However, there are currently 26 approved EFG lenders and borrowers are advised to 'shop around' for the best deal available.

The Small Business Finance Forum comprising of UK's high street banks and SME representative groups agreed the establishment of a SME monitoring panel which monitors the availability, risk and overall cost of SME lending across the five major banks.

Taxation: Small Businesses

Mr. Oaten: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what resources he is putting in place to ensure that applications for the Small Business Finance Scheme are processed efficiently. [243821]

Ian Pearson *[holding answer 15 December 2008]:* We have appointed Capital for Enterprise Ltd. (CfEL) to manage our relationship with lenders and fund managers. Capital for Enterprise Ltd. review activity to ensure the Enterprise Finance Guarantee Scheme and Capital for Enterprise Fund operates smoothly.

Justine Greening: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform which banks he expects to participate in the Small Business Finance Scheme; what steps his Department is taking to encourage such participation; and if he will make a statement. [244002]

Ian Pearson *[holding answer 15 December 2008]:* As of 25 March 2009, 26 lenders have been approved to administer the Enterprise Finance Guarantee including all the major high street banks, providing access across the whole of the UK.

Justine Greening: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what criteria there will be for small businesses wishing to access funding under the Small Business Finance Scheme; and if he will make a statement. [244003]

Ian Pearson *[holding answer 15 December 2008]:* The Enterprise Finance Guarantee (EFG) is available to SMEs in the UK with an annual turnover of up to £25 million seeking bank loans of between £1,000 and £1 million. There are some sectoral exclusions mainly relating to state aid rules. The scheme is targeted at SMEs who are at the margins of viable lending and not to replace mainstream lending to SMEs.

Justine Greening: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform when the Small Business Finance Scheme will become operational; and if he will make a statement. [244004]

Ian Pearson *[holding answer 15 December 2008]:* The Enterprise Finance Scheme (EFG) (announced in the pre-Budget report as the Small Business Finance Scheme) became operational on 14 January 2009. As of 25 March, over 1,600 businesses have made eligible applications for a value of nearly £175 million which has been offered, being assessed or processed.

Trading Funds

Adam Afriyie: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform when he plans to publish the Trading Fund Assessment. [260657]

Ian Pearson *[holding answer 9 March 2009]:* Findings and recommendations arising from the Shareholder Executive—HMT Trading Fund Assessment will be communicated by Government in the Budget.

Written Questions: Government Responses

Mr. Oaten: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform when he plans to answer Question *(a)* 243136, *(b)* 243135 and *(c)* 243821 tabled by the hon. Member for Winchester on 9 December 2008, on the Small Business Finance Scheme. [256938]

Ian Pearson *[holding answer 23 February 2009]*: I refer the hon. Member to the answers I gave for questions 243136 and 243135 on 24 March 2009, *Official Report*, column 352W.

I am answering question 243821 today.

Justine Greening: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform (1) when he plans to answer Question 244004, on the Small Business Finance Scheme, tabled on 10 December 2008; [265551]

(2) when he plans to answer Question 244003, on the Small Business Finance Scheme, tabled on 10 December 2008; [265553]

(3) when he plans to answer Question 244002, on the Small Business Finance Scheme, tabled on 10 December 2008. [265554]

Mr. Greg Knight: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform (1) when he plans to answer Question 246108, on payments to small and medium-sized enterprises, tabled on 12 January 2009; [267457]

(2) when he plans to answer Question 246106 on payments to small and medium-sized enterprises tabled on 12 January 2009. [267472]

Ian Pearson: I am answering the questions today.

NORTHERN IRELAND

Departmental Absenteeism

Mr. Scott: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many staff of his Department were recorded absent for non-medical reasons on *(a)* 2 February 2009 and *(b)* 3 February 2009; what estimate he has made of the (i) cost to his Department and (ii) number of working hours lost as a result of such absence; and what guidance his Department issued to staff in respect of absence on those days. [260571]

Paul Goggins: On 2 February 2009 32 staff in the Northern Ireland Office were absent due to non-medical reasons; and on 3 February 2009 22 staff were absent due to non-medical reasons. For the majority of these absences staff used their annual leave entitlement and there was no additional cost to the Department. In the remaining cases staff were granted special paid leave, in accordance with civil service terms and conditions. Staff who were absent due to the weather conditions were advised to attempt to attend if at all possible, but not to take unnecessary risks or put themselves in danger. The cost to the Department for the absences was £5,051.13 and 372.8 working hours were lost.

Departmental Detergents

Annette Brooke: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland if he will make it his policy to ensure that no cleaning products or ingredients of cleaning products used by his Department have been tested on animals. [261121]

Paul Goggins: Cleaning in the Northern Ireland Office is generally organised under multi-departmental contracts. There are no specifications regarding the testing of cleaning products.

Departmental Energy

Greg Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what recent progress his Department has made towards the target of increasing its energy efficiency per square metre of its Estate by 15 per cent. by 2010, relative to 1999-2000 levels; and if he will make a statement. [266873]

Paul Goggins: The Northern Ireland Office submits its energy consumption data to the Northern Ireland Department of Finance and Personnel, as part of the Northern Ireland Public Sector Energy Campaign.

The most recent data shows that our energy efficiency has improved by 27 per cent. from the 2005-06 figure and our overall improvement is 34 per cent. on the baseline year.

Departmental Lost Property

John Mason: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what property has been lost or stolen from his Department in the last 12 months; and what the estimated cost was of replacement of such property. [263121]

Paul Goggins: The Northern Ireland Office (excluding its agencies and executive NDPBs) has had one laptop stolen in the last 12 months. The estimated replacement cost is £1,500.

Departmental Recycling

Mr. Rob Wilson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how much and what proportion of its waste his Department recycled in each of the last five years. [266616]

Paul Goggins: Complete data on how much and what proportion of waste was recycled in each of the last five years are not available. However, all buildings are involved in recycling. A cross-departmental recycling scheme on the Stormont Estate, which covers a large proportion of Northern Ireland Office staff, shows a recycling rate of 38 per cent.

We are constantly looking at ways to improve recycling rates, for example by providing recycling bins in each office, and new contracts are being put in place to extend the scope of recycling.

The latest assessment of government's performance against these targets was published by the Sustainable Development Commission on 12 December 2008:

http://www.sd-commission.org.uk/sdig2008/.

Departmental Training

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many *(a)* staff and *(b)* ministerial away days were organised by his Department in each of the last five years; and what the total cost was in each year. [265111]

Paul Goggins: The following table provides a summary of the number of away days for Divisions and teams organised by the Northern Ireland Office (NIO) in each of the past five financial years. It is not possible (taking disproportionate costs threshold into account) to provide a breakdown of the total costs for each year. The NIO's policy is however to ensure that away days have a clear business objective and are cost-effective. The Department places an emphasis on team development through volunteering, to meet our corporate social responsibility commitments.

	Number of staff away days
2004-05	20
2005-06	23
2006-07	25
2007-08	29
2008-09	26

The Department has not organised ministerial away days in any of the last five financial years.

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what training courses *(a)* civil servants and *(b)* Ministers in his Department undertook in the last 12 months. [266269]

Paul Goggins: The following list details training courses provided for staff in the Northern Ireland Office in the last 12 months.

Course title

Advanced Negotiation
Advanced Presentation Skills
Advanced SAP System Monitoring
Advice on Preparation of Assembly Questions
Assertiveness
Basic Finance Process
Board Secretary's Course
BRM Practitioners' Forum
Budget forecasting
Budget Management
Build on previous training
Business Analysis Essentials
Business Analysis Essentials
Business Case Guidance
Competence Based Interview training
Certificate in First Line Management
Certificate in Personnel Practice
Chairing Meetings
Child Protection Training
Chronograph Training
CIPS Foundation Diploma
Cisco ASA Firewall
Cisco CCNA course
Cisco Network Device Management and Configuration Ciscoworks Network Node Manager
Ciscoworks Course
Citrix Metaframe for XP Course
Citrix Presentation Server 4.5
COINS Training
Communicating in a Policy Environment
Communicating with your customers
Conducting Equality Impact Assessments
Contract Management
Court Awareness Training
Court Familiarisation
CPM Managing Effective Contracts
CRO Training
Crypto Custodian Course
Crystal Reports XI Level 1
CSR Construction Site Health and Safety
Data Handling
Dell Open Manage 5
Dell SAN Data Protect (DSDP)
Dell San Management (DSM)
Dell Server Hardware Maintenance
Designing a Microsoft Windows Server 2003 Active Directory and Network
Infrastructure Course
Developing Policy
Diploma in AAT accounting development
Diploma in Project Management
Display Screen Risk Assessment
Effective Disciplinary Investigation Training
Effective Ministerial Correspondence
Effective Speech Writing
Emotional Intelligence
Employment Law and HR Management
Encryption Installation and Best Practice Security Guidance
Equality and Diversity Training
Essential Elements of Policy Delivery
Essential Media Skills
Essential Professional Legal Skills Seminars
Essential Records Management Updates
Essentials of Equality Law
Ethical Hacking and Penetration Testing
Evacuation Assistant
Event Management
Executive PA Development Programme
Finance for Non-Financial Managers
Financial Management
Fire Awareness/Evacuation Training
Fire Safety
Fire Warden Training
First Aid Refresher
First Aid Training
FOI—Advanced Decision Maker Training
FOI—Advanced Decision Maker training
FOI and Data Protection How they work together
FOI Refresher
Food Hygiene
Forensic Awareness—Evidential Opportunities
Forensic Investigation and Incident Response
Fraud Awareness
Gateway—Coping with change
Gateway—Customer Service
Gateway—Effective Communication
Gateway—Managing Conflict
Gateway—Managing People
Gateway—Managing Time
Gateway—Negotiating and Influencing

Gateway—Planning and Organising
Gateway—Planning and Organising
Gateway Review Awareness
Gateway Managing Conflict
Gateway Reviewer
Glass Debris Searching
HR Connect training
HR Superuser Training
ICT Infrastructure management (ICTIM)
ILM Intro Diploma in Management
Impact Assessment
Implementing Data Protection on Dell Storage (IDPDS)
Implementing Dell Enterprise Storage Solutions (IDESS)
Implementing, Managing and Managing Exchange Server 2003
Incident Response and Forensics Management
Induction Training
Intranet LIM training
Intro to TRIM
Intro to Word
Introduction to Excel
Introduction to FOI/DPA
Introduction to Government Finance
Introduction to Government Finance and Practical Financial Management
Introduction to Infosec
Introduction to Legal Aspects of Procurement
Introduction to Private Office
Introduction to Project Management
Introduction to Purchasing Procurement Excellence Model
Introduction to Risk Management
Introduction to Westminster Course
Involving the young citizen: better policies and better planning
IOSH
IOSH Managing Safety
ISEB—Certificate in IS Management Principles
ISEB Certificate in IT Law
ISEB Foundation in Certificate in Testing
ISEB Foundation in IT Law 3 day
ISEB in Information Security Management
ISEB Risk Management
ITIL—Infrastructure Management—Foundation Level
ITIL foundation course
ITIL Practitioner—Practitioner Certificate in Service Desk and Incident Management
ITIL Version 3 Service Management Foundation Certificate
Lateral thinking
LCN, fibres and blood training
Lead Investigator Course
Leadership
Leadership and People
Leadership and People for Fast Streamers
Leadership Development
Leadership Development
Leading Change
Leaders for Tomorrow programme
Leading Strategically
Legal Awareness Training
M 5115/8 Advanced Vista Workshop—BT
M2273 Managing and Maintaining a Microsoft Windows Server 2003 Environment
M2279 Planning, Implementing and Maintaining a Microsoft Windows Server 2003 Active Directory
M2597 Planning and Deploying Microsoft SMS 2003—BT/Sureskills
M2597 Planning and Deploying Microsoft System Centre Configuration Manager 2007
M2780 Maintaining a MS SQL Server 2005 DB
M5047 Implementing and Managing MS Exchange 2007
M5047 Implementing and Managing MS Exchange 2007
M5051 Monitoring and Troubleshooting Exchange 2007
Macromedia Dreamweaver 8—Website Design
Managing Absence
Managing Microsoft System Centre Configuration Manager 2007
Managing MS Systems Management Server 2003
Managing People Problems
Managing Safety
Managing Small Projects
Managing Successful Programmes
Manual Handling
Mind Mapping
Minute Writing for Meetings
MS 2279: Planning , Implementing & Maintaining a MS Windows Server 2003 Active Directory Infrastructure
MS 2576 Implementing and Administering Internet Information Services (IIS) 6.0
MS Configuration Manager
MS Excel Introduction
MS ISA Server Training/Overview
MS Project Management software course
MS Server Clustering
MS Small Business Server
MS Visio
MS Visio, Project Management
MS2823 Implementing and Administering Security in a Microsoft Windows Server
2003 Network—BT/Sureskills
MSE2K7 Exchange 2007 Accelerated Workshop (5047,5049,5050,5051 combined)
MSP Foundation
National Community Safety Network
NEBOSH H&S Diploma
NI Assembly Legislation Course
NVQ Level 3—Administration and Modern Apprenticeship
OASIS training
On Board—Training for Board Members
PageMaker/Photo shop
Parliament, Government and Civil Service
Parliamentary Questions
Pathway—effective communication
Pathway—Improving Customer Service
Pathway—Managing Change
Pathway—Managing Conflict
Pathway—Managing People Problems
Pathway—Managing Time
Pathway—Negotiating and Influencing
Pathway—Performance Management and Appraisal
Pathway—Planning and Organising
Pathway—Visions and Values
Pathway—Improving Customer Service
Phone System Training Course

Planning and Maintaining a Microsoft Windows Server 2003 Network Infrastructure
Premises Officer
Preparing for Top Management
PRINCE2 Foundation Certificate
PRINCE2 Overview
PRINCE2 Practitioner Certificate
Prince2 Practitioner Certificate
Professional Policy making in Government—Module 1
Programme Management for Fast Stream Course FSPR
Project and Programme Management Overview
Project Management Introduction Certificate
Project Management Overview
Protective Monitoring
Quark Express
QUIP team
Records Management Certificate
Regression Modelling
Research Methods
Resource Budgeting, Estimates to Accounts
Secretaryship of meetings
Section 75 training
Security Awareness
Security Guard Training
Service Level Agreement Course
Skills for Success
SQL 2005 (M2780 Maintaining a M/Soft SQL Server 2005 Database)
SQL05—SQL Server 2005 Transact SQL
Staff Inspection Techniques
Statement Format training
Statutory Rules Template Training
Strategic Communication Planning
Strategic Thinking
Stress Management
Subordinate Legislation
Think on your Feet
Train the Trainer
Windows 2003 Clustering
Windows Small Business Server Training/Overview
Working with Ministers
Working with the Northern Ireland Assembly
Writing Dynamics

The following training course has been attended by a Minister in the past 12 months:

Action Learning through National School of Government

Reoffenders

Mr. Paterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland pursuant to the answer of 18 December 2008, *Official Report*, columns 998-1000W, on reoffenders, what the reasons are for the increase in the reoffending rate for people aged 18 years and over; and what steps are being taken to reduce the rate. [257290]

Paul Goggins: A small increase in the reoffending rate for people aged 18 years and over should be seen in context. The overall number of offenders discharged from custody in Northern Ireland in any one year is relatively small, and so any variation in the number of reoffenders can have a disproportionate effect on the annual rate. The recent increases in the reoffending rate of adult offenders discharged from custody represent 49 more reoffenders in 2005 than in 2004 and 59 more reoffenders in 2006 than in 2005.

A cross-Government approach is essential to making significant inroads into levels of reoffending. Current initiatives under way include the establishment of an Inter-Ministerial Group and a draft strategy for the management of women offenders in Northern Ireland. A learning and skills forum has been established in order to address deficits among offenders.

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Cayman Islands: Hurricanes

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what assessment he has made of progress in post-hurricane reconstruction efforts in the Cayman Islands following Hurricane Paloma. [267100]

Mr. Thomas: The Department for International Development (DFID) continues to monitor the situation through the Governor's office and the Cayman Islands Hazard Management Agency. Government buildings, schools and hospitals are functioning and nearing full repair. Hotels on Cayman Brac are expected to be open shortly. Housing repair is well under way and is a priority. DFID provided support to the United Nations Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean to conduct a detailed assessment of economic damage and losses for the Cayman Islands government.

Departmental Energy

Greg Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how much *(a)* electricity, *(b)* gas and *(c)* other fuel was used by his Department in each of the last 10 years. [267331]

Mr. Thomas: The amount of electricity, oil and gas, expressed in kilowatt hours equivalent, used by our UK offices are as set out in the following table.

	Electricity	*Oil*	*Gas*
1999-2000	3,373,882	124,550	4,017,463
2000-01	3,473,400	123,797	4,211,099
2001-02	4,058,164	163,006	3,582,466
2002-03	4,964,059	—	3,553,992
2003-04	6,375,417	83,139	4,329,391
2004-05	6,491,979	—	4,760,808
2005-06	7,099,472	—	4,878,399
2006-07	7,035,022	—	4,335,535
2007-08	6,686,798	—	4,409,901
2008-09 estimate	6,137,703	—	4,008,423

Departmental Manpower

Mr. Clifton-Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development pursuant to the answer of 9 March 2009, *Official Report*, column 17W, on departmental personnel, how many employment contracts were issued by his Department in the latest financial year for which figures are available for individual members of staff for which the total cost to his Department was over £100,000; what the monetary value of each contract was; who the recipient of each contract was; what the purpose of each contract was; and what the job description was in each case. [263724]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: During the financial year 2007-08, the Department for International Development (DFID) let one employment contract where the total cost exceeded £100,000. The monetary value of that contract £102,000.

Departmental Press

Mr. Scott: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what the cost to his Department of its News Department was in the last financial year for which figures are available. [267352]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: Details of the Department for International Development's expenditure are included in the 2008 annual report which is available in the Library of the House and online on the DFID website:

http://www.dfid.gov.uk/pubs/files/departmental-report/2008/Cover-prelims.pdf

Departmental Public Expenditure

Daniel Kawczynski: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development (1) what the cost of his Department's operations in Latin America in 2007-08 was; [267765]

(2) what the cost of his Department's operations in Africa in 2007-08 was; [267766]

(3) what the administrative budget for his Department's UK-based staff in 2007-08 was; [267768]

(4) what the cost of his Department's operations outside the UK in 2007-08 was. [267769]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: I refer the hon. Member to the Department for International Development's 2008 annual report which is available in the Library of the House and online on the DFID website:

http://www.dfid.gov.uk/pubs/files/departmental-report/2008/Cover-prelims.pdf

Departmental Recycling

Mr. Rob Wilson: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how much and what proportion of its waste his Department recycled in 2007-08. [266776]

Mr. Thomas: In 2007-08 DFID recycled 214.6 tonnes of waste, which represented 81.3 per cent. of the total waste produced.

Departmental Standards

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what estimate he has made of the cost to his Department of measuring compliance with its targets under its public service agreements in the last 12 months for which figures are available. [266709]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: There are no costs to DFID in measuring compliance with its targets under its public service agreements beyond those incurred in generating regular management information required for managing departmental performance.

Departmental Training

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how much has been spent on media training for each Minister in his Department in each of the last three years; how many sessions have been provided; and which organisations provided such training. [268607]

Mr. Thomas: Training has been provided to Ministers on a range of issues including handling the media, as part of their induction and continuing development in order to carry out their duties effectively under the Ministerial Code.

Kenya

Daniel Kawczynski: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what the *(a)* budget and *(b)* staffing costs of his Department's operations in Kenya in 2007-08 were. [267767]

Mr. Thomas: The Department for International Development office in Kenya covers operations in both Kenya and Somalia. The total administration budget for the two programmes in 2007-08 was £3,714,238. Of this, £2,466,491 was spent on staff salaries, related medical costs, allowances, accommodation and training for both UK based and locally employed staff.

St. Helena

Mr. Lancaster: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development pursuant to the written ministerial statement of 16 March 2009, *Official Report*, column 40WS, on St. Helena, what estimate he has made of the cost of the consultation on options for access to St. Helena. [268426]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: We estimate the cost of the consultation on options for access to St. Helena will be approximately £40,000. This includes costs of organising and managing meetings on the islands of St. Helena, Falklands and Ascension, and in the UK, and for publication and dissemination of the consultation document.

Sudan: Human Rights

Mr. Keith Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what recent reports he has received of the human rights situation of refugees from the Democratic Republic of Congo displaced by the Lord's Resistance Army to Western Equatoria near Yambio in Sudan in September and October 2008. [260762]

Gillian Merron: I have been asked to reply.

Since mid-September 2008, the Lord's Resistance Army (LRA) have renewed the intensity of their attacks in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) and the Southern Sudan region and this has resulted in approximately 11,000 Congolese refugees being registered by the UN High Commissioner for Refugees in Western Equatoria State. No major human rights violations have been reported within Southern Sudan. The Sudan People's Liberation Army have been contributing to the combined (South Sudan, Uganda, DRC) operation against the LRA. In South Sudan this includes service supporting civilian protection, in conjunction with the Southern Sudanese police.

Tanzania: Overseas Aid

Daniel Kawczynski: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what the *(a)* budget and *(b)* staffing cost of his Department's operations in Tanzania in 2007-08 was. [267770]

Mr. Thomas: The administration budget for the Department for International Development Tanzania Office in 2007-08 was £2,541,000. Of this, £1,565,180 was spent on staff salaries, related medical costs, allowances, accommodation and training for both UK based staff and locally employed staff.

JUSTICE

Care Proceedings

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many care orders were *(a)* sought and *(b)* granted in each month in 2008. [268599]

Bridget Prentice: The following table shows the number of care orders applied for, and the number of care orders made, in each month of 2008 in England and Wales.

The figures relate to the number of applications, or the number of orders, counted by child. This means that if an application, or order, relates to two children then it will be counted twice. The figures cover the Family Proceedings Courts and county courts, but exclude the small number of cases dealt with in the High Court. By way of illustration, in 2007 the High Court received 3.1 per cent. of all care order applications in England and Wales, and made 3.4 per cent. of all care orders.

Research undertaken on behalf of the Ministry of Justice has identified that some cases transferred from a Family Proceedings Court (FPC) to a county court have been incorrectly identified as new applications. This will inflate the number of reported applications.

Number of care orders applied for, and number of care orders made, in county courts and Family Proceedings Courts in England and Wales during each month of 2008

	Applications made	Orders made
January	1,033	522
February	952	561
March	1,224	620
April	755	614
May	674	478
June	909	584
July	1,061	622
August	888	390
September	969	620
October	1,009	632
November	1,199	566
December	1,415	506
Total[1]	12,087	6,715

[1] These figures are provisional, subject to updates made on the FamilyMan database.

Source:

This information is taken from the HMCS FamilyMan database and manual returns sent in by FPCs. High Court activity is not counted.

Crime: Economic Situation

Mr. Garnier: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what estimate he has made of the likely effect of the recession on *(a)* re-offending rates and *(b)* prison population levels over the next five years. [265828]

Mr. Straw: The Ministry of Justice's Ministers and Corporate Management Board are supplied with regular statistical information on both the nature of the economic downturn and the historic level of demand for the Department's business. However, it is not possible to produce specific forecasts of the impact of the economic downturn on either re-offending rates or the prison population and the behaviours which lead to crime. However, the Government are using a wide range of policy instruments with the aim of ensuring that the social impact of this recession is much better than that of the recession of the early eighties and early nineties.

Departmental Public Consultation

Mrs. Laing: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice pursuant to the Rights and Responsibilities Green Paper of 23 March 2009, what steps he plans to take to ensure that all sections of the UK will have a view as part of the consultation; and how long he expects [illegible] consultation to last. [2682[illegible]

Mr. Wills: The Government wish to ensure that people across the United Kingdom can participate in the consultation on the Green Paper, "Rights and Responsibilities: developing our constitutional framework". People will be able to respond to the consultation in writing and online using the Ministry of Justice's People, Power and Politics website

http://governance.justice.gov.uk/

and through social networking websites. The consultation is also being promoted through Directgov.

The Government intend to hold regional deliberative events, conferences and seminars across the UK. There will also be academic research on key aspects of the proposals, a young person's version of the Green Paper and there has been considerable interest from parties external to Government in holding events on rights and responsibilities.

Full consultation and debate about such a constitutional development will inevitably take some time. It is for this reason the Government have not at this stage set an end date for the consultation.

Mrs. Laing: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what estimate his Department has made of the cost of its consultation on the proposals in the Rights and Responsibilities Green Paper; and how many officials of his Department he expects to work on the consultation. [268207]

Mr. Wills: The final cost of publishing the Green Paper, "Rights and Responsibilities: developing our constitutional framework" was £16,986.21. The Ministry of Justice's website, "People, Power and Politics"

http://governance.justice.gov.uk/

which will host the online debate, has been developed and will continue to be supported within existing departmental resources.

The Department is currently in the process of tendering for the delivery of regional consultation events for which costs have yet to be agreed. One of the key criteria that will need to be met by the successful bidder is to ensure value for money.

Responsibility for delivery of the consultation is held by the Constitution Directorate, part of the Democracy, Constitution and Law Group in the Ministry of Justice. Given the wide range of subjects addressed in the Green Paper, it is likely that different numbers of officials will need to be engaged with the consultation at different times, in addition to their other duties.

Haverigg Prison

Mr. Jamie Reed: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice whether his Department has estimated the effect on the economy of *(a)* Cumbria and *(b)* Copeland constituency of the operation of HM Prison Haverigg in each year since 1997. [263702]

Mr. Hanson: The effect on the economy of Cumbria and Copeland constituency of the operation of HMP Haverigg has not been estimated.

However, the direct expenditure at HMP Haverigg, as published in the annual accounts of Her Majesty's Prison Service (HMPS), is as follows:

	Direct Expenditure HMP Haverigg (£ million)
2007-08	14.1
2006-07	12.6
2005-06	12.0
2004-05	11.7
2003-04	11.2
2002-03	9.8
2001-02	9.2
2000-01	9.0
1999-2000	8.9
1998-99	9.1
1997-98	9.2
1996-97	8.2

This represents the expenditure accounted for at prison establishment level only.

Mr. Jamie Reed: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice whether there are plans to *(a)* increase the capacity and *(b)* extend the site of HM Prison Haverigg. [267943]

Mr. Hanson: 64 additional places were delivered at HMP Haverigg in 2007. There are currently no plans to further increase the capacity or extend the site of this prison.

Land Registry

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how much the Land Registry received from sales of title *(a)* registers and *(b)* plans in each of the last three years. [265243]

Mr. Wills: The following table reflects fee income received by Land Registry from sales of official copies of the register, title plan and copy documents in each of the last three financial years. Income generated by on-line views of registers, title plans and documents is included. Data relating specifically to title registers and title plans are not available.

	£
April 2005-March 2006	45,464,250
April 2006-March 2007	67,806,283
April 2007-March 2008	77,833,257

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many properties registered with the Land Registry changed ownership in each of the last 10 years; and what the *(a)* median and *(b)* mean price paid in such transactions was in each such year. [265245]

Mr. Wills: Land Registry is able to provide information on the total number of registered residential properties sold for full market value (FMV) in each of the last 10 years and the mean price paid in such transactions in each year. As these figures are extracted using Land Registry's price paid data, no information is available for any properties that have changed hands by other means. This question has been answered on the basis of recorded sales figures in England and Wales. Land Registry does not hold the information requested on median price paid and could not produce it except at disproportionate cost.

The figures are reflected in the following table.

	Mean (£)	*Total sales for FMV*
1999	94,846	1,205,304
2000	108,164	1.143.585
2001	119.275	1,260,565
2002	138,200	1,367,877
2003	156,154	1,278.139
2004	178,542	1.289.382
2005	189,580	1,068,745
2006	203,708	1;331,233
2007	219,408	1,276,841
2008	217,010	642,796

Magistrates Courts: Repairs and Maintenance

Mr. Grieve: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how much was spent on the refurbishment of magistrates' court buildings in each of the last three years. [266178]

Mr. Straw: Altogether in 2008-09 £47 million was spent by HMCS on maintenance at all courts, £27 million on projects to increase capacity and to rationalise the estate (and £75 million on major new builds). HMCS does not define 'refurbishment projects' as a specific programme of work. Among projects in magistrates courts from the maintenance and capacity programmes which could be claimed as 'refurbishment' have been:

	Spend on refurbishment (£ million)
Hendon Magistrates Court	4.4
Camberwell Magistrates Court Refurbishment works	0.14

	Spend on refurbishment (£ million)
Wolverhampton Magistrates Court	0.06
Sheffield Magistrates Court	0.35
Huddersfield Magistrates Court	1.5
Other	0.84

Given the imprecision of the definition this list is not however exhaustive.

Magistrates: Equality

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) what targets are in place for the recruitment of magistrates who are *(a)* female and *(b)* from an ethnic minority; [268165]

(2) what *(a)* funding and *(b)* other incentives are provided in respect of the recruitment of magistrates who are (a) female and (b) from an ethnic minority. [268166]

Mr. Straw: There are no national targets for the recruitment of (a) female or (b) black minority ethnic (BME) magistrates. Magistrates are recruited according to local need and should reflect the diverse communities they serve. Local advisory committees, who are responsible for recruiting and selecting magistrates, are allocated funding to recruit candidates in their respective areas.

In 2008-09, advisory committees bid for and were allocated a total of £200,000 to recruit new magistrates. Recruitment funding is not apportioned specifically to recruit women or BME candidates. To achieve diversity, advisory committees are required to target their recruitment at groups under-represented on the local Bench.

My Department has also provided substantial funding to specific awareness raising initiatives such as Operation Black Vote's Magistrates Shadowing Scheme, which was allocated £70,000 in 2008-09.

There are now more female than male magistrates (51.2 per cent.).

Of the 1,899 magistrates appointed in 2008, just over 10 per cent. were from BME backgrounds.

Overall, the proportion and magistrates from BME backgrounds was 7.3 per cent. in 2008.

National Offender Management Service: Cwymbran

Mr. Grieve: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what use is being made of the former Centrex site in Cwymbran now owned by the National Offender Management Service. [268073]

Mr. Straw: The former Centrex site in Cwmbran is not currently in use other than for occasional training exercises by Gwent police. Following the decision in February 2009 not to build a new prison on the site consideration is being given to its disposal.

Offenders: Rehabilitation

Mr. Grogan: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what plans the Government have to bring forward proposals to amend the law on the rehabilitation of offenders in line with the 2002 report, "Breaking the Circle". [268633]

Maria Eagle: The Government committed to reform of the Rehabilitation of Offenders Act 1974 in 2003, following the recommendations set out in the report "Breaking the Circle". We have since had to review the position in the light of the Safeguarding Vulnerable Groups Act 2006, based on the recommendations of the Bichard report, which made significant changes to the disclosure landscape. While the Government remain committed to reform, no timescale for this has yet been set.

Parking Offences: East Sussex

Mr. Waterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many convictions there were for parking offences committed in *(a)* Eastbourne and *(b)* East Sussex in each of the last five years. [267266]

Maria Eagle: The number of findings of guilt for obstruction, waiting and parking offences in the Sussex police force area is given in the table from 2003 to 2007 (latest available). Centrally collected data held on the Ministry of Justice Court Proceedings Database do not separately identify parking offences from other offences of obstruction and waiting.

Court proceedings data are available at police force area level; information is not available for Eastbourne and East Sussex.

Data for 2008 will be available in autumn 2009.

Findings of guilt for obstruction, waiting and parking offences in the Sussex police force area, 2003 to 2007[1]

	Number
2003	140
2004[2]	196
2005	173
2006	131
2007	138

[1] It is known that for some police force areas the reporting of court proceedings, in particular those relating to summary motoring offences, may be less than complete.

[2] This is not the figure originally published within the Home Office Statistical Bulletin "Motoring Offences and Breath Test Statistics, England & Wales 2004", which was released on 30 March 2006. The figure originally released in the above named publication was incorrect, due to a processing error.

Note:

Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

Source:

Office for Criminal Justice Reform—Evidence and Analysis Unit.

Prisoner Escapes: Research

Mr. Garnier: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice pursuant to the Answer of 10 March 2009, *Official Report*, column 243W, on prisoner escapes, if he will publish the results of the research referred to. [268109]

Mr. Hanson: A copy of the report entitled "An Analysis of Absconders in 2002 and 2003" will be placed in the House of Commons Library.

This report is now dated. The success in reducing absconds and escapes from prisons has meant that further research work in this area has not been a priority. The number of absconds has reduced from 1,115 in 1996-97 to 513 in 2007-08.

Prisons: Crimes of Violence

Mr. Grieve: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many *(a)* prison officers, *(b)* prison governors and *(c)* non-officer members of staff working in prisons were assaulted in the course of their work in each of the last five years. [268147]

Mr. Straw: The information is set out in the following table. Assault data are not recorded in the form requested but is recorded at establishment level in four categories: prisoner on prisoner, prisoner on officer, prisoner on other and other (which may include non-prisoner perpetrators). The recorded incidents of assaults on prison officers are not completely exclusive to officers; establishment recording sometimes includes assaults on other prison staff in this category and may include managers and non-officer staff such as health care professionals and teachers, etc. The category prisoner on other contains few entries but these may include prison staff as well as visitors, legal visitors, etc. The category other will contain some assaults on prison staff by non-prisoners, for example, by visitors.

The numbers supplied refer to the number of individual assault incidents; they include all incidents recorded as assaults and may also include threatening behaviour, projection of bodily fluids and other non-contact events and allegations.

The information set out as follows is subject to important qualifications. The NOMS incident reporting system processes high volumes of data which are constantly being updated. The numbers provide a good indication of overall numbers but should not be interpreted as absolute. Assault data is complex and the numbers need to be interpreted with caution. Information recorded as assault incidents may involve one or many prisoners as some assault incidents may involve more than one assailant or more than one victim. Additionally, in a proportion of incidents, only the victim is known.

Reducing violence in prisons is a priority for Ministers, NOMS and the Prison Officers Association and they are collectively committed to working towards a zero tolerance approach to prison violence. Since 2004, a national strategy has directed every public sector prison to have in place a local violence reduction strategy and since mid-2007, this has been applied to the public and contracted-out estate. A whole prison approach is encouraged, engaging all staff, all disciplines and prisoners in challenging unacceptable behaviour, problem-solving and personal safety.

Assaults on prison staff

Classification	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*
Prisoner On Officer	2,763	3,091	3,124	2,871	2,753
Prisoner On Other	215	201	197	208	195
Other	149	217	199	156	137

Source:
NOMS Incident Reporting System.

Sean Hodgson

Mr. Mullin: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what assistance his Department and its agencies have offered to Mr. Sean Hodgson since his release from prison; and if he will make a statement. [267911]

Maria Eagle: The Ministry of Justice through the National Offender Management Service funds the royal courts of justice advice bureau to run the miscarriages of justice support service (MJS). MJS provides advice on legal, housing, benefits and compensation issues. In its press release of 11 March 2009, the Criminal Cases Review Commission stated that it had brought Mr. Hodgson's case to the attention of the MJS and arrangements were being made to provide Mr. Hodgson with appropriate support and advice.

Supreme Court: Expenditure

Mr. Grieve: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how much had been spent on the project to site the Supreme Court in the Middlesex Guildhall building on the latest date for which figures are available. [264118]

Mr. Straw: As announced on 14 June 2007, the estimated set-up costs for the UK Supreme Court are £36.7 million for capital construction, which will be met over a 30-year period through rental payments of £2.1 million per annum, increasing at a rate of 2.5 per cent. per annum, plus £20.2 million of other set-up costs (including provision of library, visitor facilities etc.). The only change to this estimate is an additional £2 million for repair work (as announced on 3 July 2008) and new security measures (where we will update the House with costs once we have the final figure).

As at February 2009 the Supreme Court Implementation Programme has spent £14.3 million.

Youth Justice: Voluntary Work

Mr. Grieve: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) how many volunteer members of youth offending panels there are; [268076]

(2) how many volunteers served as members of youth offending panels in each month since July 2007. [268077]

Mr. Straw: The Youth Justice Board does not currently collect data on the number of youth offender panel members, who are employed by youth offending teams.

However work carried out last year by the Youth Justice Board on a separate issue relating to youth offender panel member, estimates that there are over 5,000 panel members currently serving across the 157 youth offending teams.

HEALTH

Abortion

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will place in the Library a copy of each document in his Department's file FPS 15/27 Unborn Children (Protection) Bill: Mr Ken Hargreaves; and if he will make a statement. [266968]

Dawn Primarolo: A copy of the file has been placed in the Library.

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many late abortions were performed in pregnancies of 24 weeks or more in the latest year for which figures are available; how many and what percentage of those abortions were performed on each of the relevant legal grounds; and how many and what percentage of those abortions were performed by each of the six doctors who performed the largest number of such abortions. [266984]

Dawn Primarolo: There were 135 abortions performed at gestations of 24 weeks and over in 2007. The majority were performed under Section 1(1)(d)[1] of the Abortion Act 1967. For confidentiality reasons, and in line with the Office for National Statistics guidance on the disclosure of abortion statistics, the total performed under Sections 1(1)(b)[2], 1(1)(c)[3] and 1(4)[4] cannot be released but there were less than 10 (between zero and nine). For the same reasons, the information requested by each of the six doctors who performed the largest number of abortions at 24 weeks and over, cannot be released.

[1] That there is a substantial risk that if the child were born it would suffer from such physical or mental abnormalities as to be seriously handicapped.

[2] That the termination is necessary to prevent grave permanent injury to the physical or mental health of the pregnant woman.

[3] That the continuance of the pregnancy would involve risk to the life of the pregnant woman, greater than if the pregnancy were terminated.

[4] That the termination is immediately necessary to save the life or to prevent grave permanent injury to the physical or mental health of the pregnant woman.

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many officials in his Department have responsibility for the *(a)* formulation and *(b)* implementation of policy on abortion, broken down by pay band; what relevant specialist qualifications each holds; what other posts each has held to date; and if he will make a statement. [266986]

Dawn Primarolo: There are seven officials in the Department who, as part of their duties, have direct responsibility for the formulation and implementation of policy on abortion.

Official	*Number*
Senior Executive Officer	1
Grade 7	1
Grade 6	1
Senior Civil Service 1	1
Senior Civil Service 2	1
Senior Civil Service 3	1
Permanent Secretary (Chief Medical Officer)	1

Each of these officials have been appointed to these posts following agreed procedures and taking into account relevant experience from previous posts held both in the Department and other organisations. Each meets the core competencies appropriate to their grade.

Childbirth

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what percentage of deliveries resulted in *(a)* a baby with low birthweight and *(b)* stillbirth in each lower layer super output area in the most recent period for which figures are available. [267699]

Kevin Brennan: I have been asked to reply.

The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated March 2009:

As National Statistician I have been asked to reply to your recent question asking what percentage of deliveries resulted in (a) a baby with low birthweight and (b) stillbirth in each lower layer super output area in the most recent period for which figures are available. (267699)

Information on low birthweight babies and stillbirths is not routinely published for lower layer super output areas, in order to protect the privacy of individual mothers and babies. ONS routinely publishes figures on low birthweight babies and stillbirth for local authorities in England and Wales.

The table gives the percentages of births which resulted in (a) a baby with a low birthweight and (b) a stillbirth, in each local authority, in 2007 (the most recent year for which figures are available). A copy has been placed in the Library of the House.

Departmental ICT

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health with reference to the answer of 1 September 2008, *Official Report*, column 1676W, on departmental ICT, whether his Department has received a certificate in respect of compliance with the ISO 27001 standard for *(a)* IT systems and *(b)* services operated by his Department. [268655]

Mr. Bradshaw: ISO 27001 is the international standard for the security management of information systems and superseded the British Standard BS 7799. The Department chose to comply with BS 7799 rather than seek full certification against the standard for its information systems and has maintained this stance with ISO 27001. Internal Audit carried out reviews of compliance against the standard until 2007, when responsibility for this work moved to the Security and Assurance Team.

Euthanasia

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent reports he has received of allegations of patients having been given drugs by doctors to accelerate their death; and if he will make a statement. [268502]

Dawn Primarolo: We are aware of the recently published study in the journal "Palliative Medicine"[1] which reports on a postal survey of medical practitioners about patients' deaths.

[1] C. Seale "End-of-life decisions in the UK involving medical practitioners" Palliat Med 2009 23: 198-204

Food: Labelling

Mr. Greg Knight: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will discuss with his EU counterparts the adequacy of labelling on meat products which are injected with a mixture of salt, phosphates and water; and if he will make a statement. [267983]

Dawn Primarolo: The European Commission is currently revising European food labelling legislation and published a proposal of a new regulation on the provision of food information to consumers. UK officials have raised this point during negotiations on this dossier and initial indications are that member states are generally in favour of further clarifying rules to ensure that consumers are not mislead where water, salt and other ingredients are added to meat products.

Mr. Greg Knight: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will bring forward proposals in respect of the labelling of enhanced fresh meats to indicate if they have been injected with a mixture of salt, phosphates and water; and if he will make a statement. [267984]

Dawn Primarolo: If ingredients such as salt, phosphates and water are added to meat it cannot be sold as fresh meat. It must be sold as a 'meat preparation or product' and must be labelled to indicate that such ingredients have been added.

The labelling of meat products with added ingredients such as salt, phosphates and water must already follow general labelling rules established at European Union level. Specifically, it is controlled by the Food Labelling Regulations 1996 (as amended) and the Meat Products Regulations 2003 (MPR) (as amended). This legislation requires that the name of the food and ingredients list reflects its true nature so that consumers are accurately informed and not misled.

General Practitioners

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 23 February 2009, *Official Report*, columns 207-14W, on general practitioners: finance, what the name and postcode is of each listed practice. [267318]

Mr. Bradshaw: The list of all those practices with General Medical Services minimum practice income guarantee comprising more than 25 per cent. of their total income amended to now include both practice name and postcode details are as follows.

Practices with Correction Factor greater than 25 per cent. of estimated NHS income (Characteristic data taken from Quality Outcomes Framework with 2006-07 data)

Practice identifier	*Practice name*	*Post code*	*Primary care organisation code*	*PCO name*	*Pr (patients over 65)*	*Weighted population*	*New registrations index*	*Staff market forces factor index*	*No of GPs*
5E1A81066	Park Lane Surgery	TS211JS	5E1	North Tees PCT	0.15	3,684	0.98	0.98	3
5A3L81639	Mangotsfield Surgery	BS169DN	5A3	South Gloucestershire PCT	0.14	1,025	0.97	1.01	1
5A4F82639	Dr. Joseph	RM5 3PR	5A4	Havering PCT	0.11	2,524	1.00	1.01	1
5A8G83068	Dr. N.S. Goram's Practice	SE3 9YR	5A8	Greenwich PCT	0.03	1,582	1.01	1.06	1
5ANB81671	128 Chelmsford Avenue	DN34 5DA	5AN	North East Lincolnshire PCT	0.08	368	0.98	0.96	1
5C3F84033	Somerford Grove Health Centre	N16 7UA	5C3	City and Hackney Primary Care Team	0.07	9,777	1.01	1.11	7
5C3F84119	The Heron Practice	N4 2NU	5C3	City and Hackney Primary Care Team	0.05	7,831	1.02	1.11	6
5C3F84694	The Surgery (Brooke Road)	N16 7LR	5C3	City and Hackney Primary Care Team	0.04	2,925	0.98	1.11	1
5C4F84031	Jubilee Street Practice	E1 0LS	5C4	Tower Hamlets Primary Care Team	0.12	10,492	1.00	1.12	7
5C4F84107	Dr. Khanom	E2 6LL	5C4	Tower Hamlets Primary Care Team	0.09	2,604	0.99	1.12	2
5C5F84671	Katherine Road Medical Centre	E7 8DR	5C5	Newham Primary Care Team	0.05	1,708	1.01	1.06	1
5C5F84673	Esk Road Medical Centre	E13 8LJ	5C5	Newham Primary Care Team	0.03	2,766	1.00	1.06	1
5F1L83117	Park View Surgery	PL4 6NU	5F1	Plymouth Primary Care Trust	0.17	980	1.00	0.96	1

Practices with Correction Factor greater than 25 per cent. of estimated NHS income (Characteristic data taken from Quality Outcomes Framework with 2006-07 data)

Practice identifier	*Practice name*	*Post code*	*Primary care organisation code*	*PCO name*	*Pr (patients over 65)*	*Weighted population*	*New registrations index*	*Staff market forces factor index*	*No of GPs*
5GCE81633	Dr. Ha Al-Rikaby's Practice	LU3 2JG	5GC	Luton	0.06	1,836	1.02	1.02	1
5HXE85607	Acton Lane Medical Centre	W4 5DG	5HX	Ealing PCT	0.05	1,256	1.04	1.06	1
5J5P85024	Westwood Medical Practice	OL9 6TS	5J5	Oldham Primary Care Trust	0.05	3,406	0.99	0.96	1
5J5P85622	Jarvis House	OL4 1DT	5J5	Oldham Primary Care Trust	0.04	2,648	0.99	0.96	1
5K5E84096	Peel Precinct Surgery	NW6 5RE	5K5	Brent PCT	0.03	1,756	1.02	1.07	1
5K7F83044	The Bloomsbury Surgery	WC1N1PD	5K7	Camden Primary Care Trust	0.10	4,669	1.06	1.13	2
5K9H83030	Broom Road Practice	CR0 0NG	5K9	Croydon Primary Care Trust	0.09	3,147	1.00	1.05	2
5KLA89012	Dr. Dixit's Practice	NE307NQ	5KL	Sunderland Teaching Primary Care Trust	0.09	4,563	0.98	0.96	1
5L1J82063	Highfield Health	SO171BJ	5L1	Southampton City Primary Care Trust	0.02	2,801	1.07	1.01	1
5LCE87677	Imperial College Health Centre	SW7 1LY	5LC	Westminster PCT	0.02	5,647	1.11	1.13	4
5LCE87691	Westminster School	SW1P 3PB	5LC	Westminster PCT	0.00	131	1.09	1.13	1
5LCE87094	Buckingham Palace Practice	SW1A 1AA	5LC	Westminster PCT	0.05	258	1.03	1.13	1
5LEG85705	Dr. A. M. Campion's Practice	SE1 2BP	5LE	Southwark PCT	0.08	4,176	1.06	1.11	1
5LEY00454	Dr. R Sharma's Practice	SE1 6ED	5LE	Southwark PCT	0.05	2,285	1.03	1.11	1
5LFG85711	Dr. R. N. Towary's Practice	SE146TJ	5LF	Lewisham PCT	0.11	1,479	0.90	1.06	1
5LGH85685	Sai Medical Centre	SW12 0DT	5LG	Wandsworth PCT	0.04	1,360	0.90	1.09	1
5LQG81694	Ship Street Surgery	BN1 1AE	5LQ	Brighton and Hove City Teaching PCT	0.03	2,239	1.07	1.01	1
5M1M85782	Southgate Surgery	B29 7BL	5M1	South Birmingham PCT	0.09	1,294	1.04	1.01	1
5M3Y00226	Lapman Medical Centre-Ahmed	WS1 4JZ	5M3	Walsall Teaching PCT	0.03	2,327	1.00	0.96	1
5MKM82607	Leegomery Surgery	TF1 6PP	5MK	Telford and Wrekin Primary Care Trust	0.07	2,504	1.01	0.96	2
5N2B85634	Dr Singh	HD2 2YD	5N2	Kirklees PCT	0.07	2,273	1.00	0.97	1
5N7C81112	Littleover Medical Centre	DE23 6EL	5N7	Derby City PCT	0.14	2,206	0.97	0.96	2
5N8C84112	Bramcote Surgery	NG9 3HF	5N8	Nottinghamshire County Teaching PCT	0.20	2,866	0.98	0.97	3
5NEA82038	Temple Sowerby Medical Practice	CA101RW	5NE	Cumbria PCT	0.16	3,965	0.98	0.96	4

Practices with Correction Factor greater than 25 per cent. of estimated NHS income (Characteristic data taken from Quality Outcomes Framework with 2006-07 data)

Practice identifier	*Practice name*	*Post code*	*Primary care organisation code*	*PCO name*	*Pr (patients over 65)*	*Weighted population*	*New registrations index*	*Staff market forces factor index*	*No of GPs*
5DDAK3622	Sedbergh School Med Ctr	LA105HG	5NE	Cumbria PCT	0.01	270	1.09	0.96	2
5G7P81620	Slaidburn Health Centre	BB7 3EP	5NG	East Lancs PCT	0.10	1,165	0.99	0.95	1
5E2M82617	Coxwold Surgery	YO614BB	5NV	North Yorkshire and York PCT	0.29	615	0.97	0.97	1
5KKB82062	Egton Surgery	YO211TX	5NV	North Yorkshire and York PCT	0.29	2,555	0.98	0.97	2
5E6B81032	Hussain Am	HU3 2BE	5NX	Hull PCT	0.12	3,088	1.00	0.96	2
5GJE82627	The Maltings Surgery	SG129HP	5P3	East and North Hertfordshire PCT	0.09	2,351	1.00	1.02	2
5QVE82655	South West Herts Health Centre	WD197SF	5P6	West Hertfordshire PCT	0.08	1,344	1.01	1.05	1
5L2G82090	Marsham Street	ME141EW	5P9	West Kent PCT	0.17	5,544	0.99	1.00	3
5L2G82234	Phoenix	ME1 3BX	5P9	West Kent PCT	0.13	4,056	0.99	1.00	3
5JCC82111	Dr M. A. Bhojani's Practice	LE117TU	5PA	Leicestershire County and Rutland PCT	0.09	8,029	1.09	0.98	3
5E3C82114	Dr. U. K. Roy	LE3 0QD	5PC	Leicester City PCT	0.17	1,508	1.01	0.98	1
5EYC82659	Melbourne Road Health Centre	LE2 0GT	5PC	Leicester City PCT	0.04	2,785	1.01	0.98	2
5HTM87613	Brierley Hill Health Ctr A	DY5 3EF	5PE	Dudley Primary Care Trust	0.07	847	0.99	0.97	1
5HTM87628	Dr. B. K. Pradhan	DY9 8BT	5PE	Dudley Primary Care Trust	0.06	1,634	0.99	0.97	1
5HVM87634	Dr. Basu, St. Thomas's Medical Centre	DY2 7QA	5PE	Dudley Primary Care Trust	0.06	1,019	1.02	0.96	1
5HWM83670	University Medical Centre Keele	ST5 5BG	5PH	North Staffordshire PCT	0.02	3,297	1.12	0.95	2
5DQM83732	Springhill Medical Centre	WS7 0BG	5PK	South Staffordshire Primary Care Trust	0.11	992	1.00	0.97	1
5AGD81629	Bushfield	PE2 5RQ	5PN	Peterborough PCT	0.09	3,256	1.01	0.99	1
5HED81080	Newnham Walk Surgery	CB3 9HS	5PP	Cambridgeshire PCT	0.07	7,750	1.05	1.05	5
5HHD81017	279-281 Mill Road	CB1 3DG	5PP	Cambridgeshire PCT	0.10	4,631	1.03	1.05	2
5HHD81037	Bridge Street Surgery	CB2 1UU	5PP	Cambridgeshire PCT	0.08	6,111	1.04	1.05	6
5JJD81033	Over Surgery	CB4 5NZ	5PP	Cambridgeshire PCT	0.13	4,105	0.99	1.03	4
5GMF81141	Rowhedge Surgery	CO5 7HP	5PW	North East Essex PCT	0.05	7,641	1.08	0.98	5
5GMF81746	Bluebell Surgery	CO4 9YN	5PW	North East Essex PCT	0.08	1,544	1.01	0.98	1
5GMY80484	Hawthorn Surgery	CO4 3GW	5PW	North East Essex PCT	0.10	3,494	1.04	0.98	1
5GRF81700	Dr. S. P. L. Dee' Practice	SS155DT	5PY	South West Essex PCT	0.07	612	1.02	1.02	1
5DTK84613	Dr. T. W. D. Anderson's Practice	OX26 6XX	5QE	Oxfordshire Primary Care Trust	0.04	6,525	1.01	1.03	5
5DTK84621	Dr A. F. B. Gibson's Practice	OX263EA	5QE	Oxfordshire Primary Care Trust	0.05	3,149	1.00	1.03	2
5FPJ81623	Broadmayne Surgery	DT2 8ER	5QM	Dorset Primary Care Trust	0.32	1,166	0.99	0.95	1

Practices with Correction Factor greater than 25 per cent. of estimated NHS income (Characteristic data taken from Quality Outcomes Framework with 2006-07 data)

Practice identifier	*Practice name*	*Post code*	*Primary care organisation code*	*PCO name*	*Pr (patients over 65)*	*Weighted population*	*New registrations index*	*Staff market forces factor index*	*No of GPs*
5FML82017	Isles of Scilly Health Centre	TR210HE	5QP	Cornwall and Isles of Scilly PCT	0.17	2,133	1.02	0.93	2
				National Average	0.15	6,380	1.00	1.00	3.46

Practice identifier	*Practice name*	*Post code*	*Primary care organisation code*	*PCO name*	*Nursing and residential home patients index*	*Practice population Q2 2006-07*	*Standardised limited long-standing illness*	*Standardised mortality rate under 65*
5E1A81066	Park Lane Surgery	TS211JS	50	North Tees PCT	1.00	3,968	88.49	65.47
5A3L81639	Mangotsfield Surgery	BS169DN	5A3	South Gloucestershire PCT	1.00	1,274	83.71	68.45
5A4F82639	Dr. Joseph	RM5 3PR	5A4	Havering PCT	1.00	2,814	93.45	97.64
5A8G83068	Dr. N.S. Guram's Practice	SE3 9YR	5A8	Greenwich PCT	1.00	1,805	120.78	130.44
5ANB81671	128 Chelmsford Avenue	DN34 5DA	5AN	North East Lincolnshire PCT	1.00	424	115.30	137.48
5C3F84033	Somerford Grove Health Centre	N16 7UA	5C3	City and Hackney Primary Care Team	1.00	10,165	126.76	121.52
5C3F84119	The Heron Practice	N4 2NU	5C3	City and Hackney Primary Care Team	1.00	8,158	123.22	121.82
5C3F84694	The Surgery (Brooke Road)	N16 7LR	5C3	City and Hackney Primary Care Team	1,00	3,328	127.57	122.79
5C4F84031	Jubilee Street Practice	E1 0LS	5C4	Tower Hamlets Primary Care Team	1.00	9,720	133.09	126.46
5C4F84107	Dr. Khanam	E2 6LL	5C4	Tower Hamlets Primary Care Team	1.00	2,563	134.99	145.41
5C5F84671	Katherine Road Medical Centre	E7 8DR	5C5	Newham Primary Care Team	1.00	1,948	126.25	123.52
5C5F84673	Esk Road Medical Centre	E13 8LJ	5C5	Newham Primary Care Team	1.00	3,638	126.09	133.67
5F1L83117	Park View Surgery	PL4 6NU	5F1	Plymouth Primary Care Trust	1.00	992	113.99	99.77
5GCE81633	Dr. H. A. Ar-Rikaby's Practice	LU3 2JG	5GC	Luton	1.00	2,191	96.87	102.21
5HXE85687	Acton Lane Medical Centre	W4 5DG	5HX	Ealing PCT	1.00	1,606	83.78	88.85
5J5P85024	Westwood Medical Practice	OL9 6TS	5J5	Oldham Primary Care Trust	1.00	3,548	141.84	178.74
5J5P85622	Jarvis House	OL4 1DT	5J5	Oldham Primary Care Trust	1.00	2,544	145.34	186.32
5K5E84696	Peel Precinct Surgery	NW6 5RE	5K5	Brent PCT	1.00	1,978	116.40	135.77
5K7F83044	The Bloomsbury Surgery	WC1N1PD	5K7	Camden Primary Care Trust	1.00	4,233	118.23	157.45
5K9H83030	Broom Road Practice	CR0 8NG	5K9	Croydon Primary Care Trust	1.00	3,900	81.36	82.27
5KLA89012	Dr. Dixit's Practice	NE387NQ	5KL	Sunderland Teaching Primary Care Trust	1.00	4,901	122.84	97.31
5L1J82663	Highfield Health	SO171BJ	5L1	Southampton City Primary Care Trust	1.00	3,726	100.34	107.64

Practice identifier	*Practice name*	*Post code*	*Primary care organisation code*	*PCO name*	*Nursing and residential home patients index*	*Practice population Q2 2006-07*	*Standardised limited long-standing illness*	*Standardised mortality rate under 65*
5LCE87677	Imperial College Health Centre	SW7 1LY	5LC	Westminster PCT	1.00	8,856	73.85	78.62
5LCE87691	Westminster School	SW1P3PB	5LC	Westminster PCT	1.00	208	89.59	116.65
5LCE87694	Buckingham Palace Practice	SW1A1AA	5LC	Westminster PCT	1.00	294	83.63	101.91
5LEG85705	Dr. A. M. Campion's Practice	SE1 2BP	5LE	Southwark PCT	1.01	4,317	101.06	112.14
5LEY00454	Dr. R Sharma's Practice	SE1 6ED	5LE	Southwark PCT	1.00	2,525	109.44	129.53
5LFG85711	Dr. R. N. Tiwary's Practice	SE146TJ	5LF	Lewisham PCT	1.00	1,524	105.43	138.85
5LGH85685	Sai Medical Centre	SW128DT	5LG	Wandsworth PCT	1.00	1,864	95.35	106.14
5LQG81694	Ship Street Surgery	BN1 1AE	5LQ	Brighton and Hove City Teaching PCT	1.00	2,626	103.48	149.61
5M1M85782	Southgate Surgery	B29 7BL	5M1	South Birmingham PCT	1.01	1,472	100.68	99.40
5M3Y00228	Luqman Medical Centre-Ahmed	WS1 4JZ	5M3	Walsall Teaching PCT	1.00	2,741	121.99	133.46
5MKM82607	Leegomery Surgery	TF1 6PP	5MK	Telford and Wrekin Primary Care Trust	1.00	2,917	114.37	102.23
5LJB85634	Dr. Singh	HD2 2YD	5N2	Kirklees PCT	1.00	2,578	109.37	126.36
5EXC81112	Littleover Medical Centre	DE236EL	5N7	Derby City PCT	1.00	2,393	99.28	94.44
5EVC84112	Bramcote Surgery	NG9 3HF	5N8	Nottinghamshire County Teaching PCT	1.00	3,147	85.31	69.12
5D5A82038	Temple Sowerby Medical Practice	CA101RW	5NE	Cumbria PCT	1.00	3,831	82.87	91.59
5DDA82622	Sedbergh School Med Ctr	LA105HG	5NE	Cumbria PCT	1.00	518	79.78	48.23
5G7P81620	Slaidburn Health Centre	BB7 3EP	5NH	East Lancs PCT	1.00	1,076	82.52	98.27
5E2B82617	Coxwold Surgery	YO614BB	5NV	North Yorkshire And York PCT	1.00	538	71.86	63.06
5KKB82062	Egton Surgery	YO211TX	5NV	North Yorkshire And York PCT	1.00	2,318	95.61	88.92
5E6B81032	Hussain A.W.	HU3 2SE	5NX	Hull PCT	1.00	2,851	128.60	175.00
5GJE82627	The Maltings Surgery	SG129HP	5P3	East and North Hertfordshire PCT	1.00	2,921	74.07	76.85
5GVE82655	South West Herts Health Centre	WD197SF	5P4	West Hertfordshire PCT	1.00	1,393	101.92	109.61
5L2G82030	Marsham Street	ME141EW	5P9	West Kent PCT	1.00	5,816	88.61	93.46
5L2G82234	Phoenix	ME1 3SX	5P9	West Kent PCT	1.00	4,252	84.45	95.38
5JCC82111	Dr M. A. Bhojani's Practice	LE113TU	5PA	Leicestershire County and Rutland PCT	1.00	13,563	93.51	91.79
5EJC82114	Dr. U. K. Roy	LE3 0QD	5PC	Leicester City PCT	1.01	1,843	108.04	116.77
5EYC82659	Melbourne Road Health Centre	LE2 0GT	5PC	Leicester City PCT	1.00	3,225	126.95	128.46
5HTM87613	Brierley Hill Health Ctr A	DY5 3EF	5PE	Dudley Primary Care Trust	1.00	1,024	110.63	111.44
5HTM87628	Dr. B. K. Prashara	DY9 8BT	5PE	Dudley Primary Care Trust	1.00	1,958	114.97	118.50

Practice identifier	*Practice name*	*Post code*	*Primary care organisation code*	*PCO name*	*Nursing and residential home patients index*	*Practice population Q2 2006-07*	*Standardised limited long-standing illness*	*Standardised mortality rate under 65*
5HVM87634	Dr. Bass, St. Thomas's Medical Centre	DY2 7QA	5PE	Dudley Primary Care Trust	1.00	1,220	124.59	114.34
5HWM83670	University Medical Centre Keele	ST5 5BG	5PH	North Staffordshire PCT	1.00	4,562	105.11	74.95
5DQM83732	Springhill Medical Centre	WS7 0BG	5PK	South Staffordshire Primary Care Trust	1.00	1,164	95.19	96.57
5AGD81629	Bushfield	PE2 5RQ	5PN	Peterborough PCT	1.00[9]	3,576	99.94	102.45
5JHD81005	Newnham Walk Surgery	CB3 9HS	5PP	Cambridgeshire PCT	1.00	10,919	67.63	53.71
5JHD81017	279-281 Mill Road	CB1 3DG	5PP	Cambridgeshire PCT	1.00	5,310	86.53	86.89
5JHD81037	Bridge Street Surgery	CB2 1UU	5PP	Cambridgeshire PCT	1.00	8,276	76.81	73.43
5JJD81033	Over Surgery	CB4 5NZ	5PP	Cambridgeshire PCT	1.00	4,413	68.87	68.63
5GMF81141	Rowhedge Surgery	CO5 7HP	5PW	North East Essex PCT	1.00	10,042	96.44	73.92
5GMF81746	Bluebell Surgery	CO4 9YN	5PW	North East Essex PCT	1.00	1,905	96.65	93.22
5GMY00484	Hawthorn Surgery	CO4 3GW	5PW	North East Essex PCT	1.00	3,760	118.37	99.87
5GRF81709	Dr. S. P. L. Das' Practice	SS155DT	5PY	South West Essex PCT	1.00	722	94.03	91.73
5DTK84613	Dr. T. W. D. Anderson's Practice	OX206XX	5QE	Oxfordshire Primary Care Trust	1.00	9,217	65.10	64.02
5DTK84621	Dr A. F. B. Gibson's Practice	OX263HA	5QE	Oxfordshire Primary Care Trust	1.00	4,335	66.35	70.82
5FPJ81623	Broadmayne Surgery	DT2 8ER	5QM	Dorset Primary Care Trust	1.00	1,040	81.74	58.43
5FML82017	Isles of Scilly Health Centre	TR210HE	5QP	Cornwall and Isles of Scilly PCT	1.00	2,465	65.12	60.02
				National Average	1.00	6,380	102.51	106.25

Note:

These practices listed above whose minimum practice income guarantees comprises more than 25% of total NHS income have been calculated on a combination of; Global Sum, Correction Factor and Quality Outcomes Framework income and includes an estimate of their Enhanced Services income. It does not include income from other audited datastreams e.g. Information Management & Technology, Premises, Seniority and Locum payments

Health Professions: Disclosure of Information

Mr. Gordon Prentice: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent discussions he has had with *(a)* the General Medical Council, *(b)* the Royal College of Nursing, *(c)* the British Medical Association and *(d)* other organisations representing the allied medical professions on the implementation and practice of whistleblowing policies. [268611]

Ann Keen: On 20 March 2009, the Department published the report of the "Tackling Concerns Locally" Working Group, which has been advising Ministers on improvements to clinical governance in the national health service. A copy has been placed in the Library. The group included representatives of the General Medical Council, the British Medical Association, the Royal College of Nursing, the General Optical Council and the Royal Pharmaceutical Society. The report recommended that there should be better support for the public and for staff in health care organisations who wish to raise concerns about care. The Department is currently considering the report.

Health Service Commissioner

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what effect the implementation of the Health and Social Care Act 2008 *(a)* has had and *(b)* is expected to have on the workload of the Health Service Ombudsman. [268654]

Ann Keen: These are matters for the health service ombudsman.

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether he has requested additional funding from HM Treasury in relation to the Health Ombudsman's new role in the NHS complaints process. [268656]

Ann Keen: None.

Health: Greater London

Mr. Evennett: To ask the Secretary of State for Health when he expects to receive the Independent

Review Panel's report on A Picture of Health for South East London; and if he will make a statement. [268681]

Ann Keen: The Secretary of State for Health received the Independent Reconfiguration Panel's (IRP) report into A Picture of Health (proposals for changes to the distribution of services between Bromley Hospitals, Queen Elizabeth Hospitals Greenwich, Queen Mary's Hospitals Sidcup and University Hospitals Lewisham and the associated development of community services) in South East London on 31 March 2009. He will now carefully consider the panel's recommendations and respond in due course.

HIV Infection: Charities

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much funding his Department provided for *(a)* the Eileen Trust and *(b)* the MacFarlane Trust in 2008-09. [267738]

Dawn Primarolo: The funding from the Department for the Macfarlane Trust and Eileen Trust in 2008-09 was £3,754,000 and £178,000 respectively.

Hospitals: Crimes of Violence

Mr. Greg Knight: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many reports of physical attacks against NHS hospital staff there were in each of the last three years; and how many prosecutions were made in respect of each which resulted in conviction. [261868]

Ann Keen: For information on the numbers of reported physical assaults against national health service staff, I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave the hon. Member for West Chelmsford (Mr. Burns) on 20 January 2009, *Official Report*, column 1378W.

Information on the number of prosecutions following assaults against NHS hospital staff is not currently available and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost. For information on criminal sanctions following cases of physical assault against NHS staff, I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave to the right hon. Member for Birkenhead (Mr. Field) on 26 January 2009, *Official Report*, column 246W.

Hospitals: Food

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health in what percentage of hospitals in each NHS organisation recorded in ERIC returns clinical ward activity was suspended during mealtimes except in emergency or very high dependency cases to enable ward-based staff to focus on the service of meals and assistance to patients in the most recent period for which figures are available. [263686]

Ann Keen: The information is not available in the format requested.

The Department has collected annual data from national health service trusts through the Estates Returns Information Collection (ERIC) relating to:

> "The percentage of wards in the hospital where clinical ward activity (except in emergency or very high dependency cases) is suspended during mealtimes so as to enable ward based staff to focus on the service of meals and assistance to patients."

The data for 2007-08 have been placed in the Library.

The information provided has been supplied by the NHS and had not been amended centrally. The accuracy and completeness of the information is the responsibility of the provider organisation. Provision of this data was mandatory for NHS Trusts but voluntary for foundation trusts, therefore it will not be complete.

The protected mealtimes initiative (PMI) was introduced by NHS Estates in partnership with the Royal College of Nursing in 2004, as part of the Better Hospital Food programme. These are periods of time when all non-urgent clinical activity stops, allowing the patient to eat without interruption.

When NHS Estates closed in September 2005, lead responsibility for the protected mealtimes initiative passed to the national patient safety agency (NPSA). The NPSA has been working with key stakeholders in the development of a toolkit to assist NHS organisations in the implementation of the '10 Key Characteristics of Good Nutritional Care'. A fact sheet relating to protected mealtimes was developed and launched in April 2008 and the NPSA will be launching the complete toolkit later this year.

Human Papilloma Virus: Vaccination

Mr. Kemp: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many girls, of each age, have been vaccinated against human Papilloma virus in *(a)* Sunderland and *(b)* England. [268381]

Dawn Primarolo: The Human Papilloma virus (HPV) vaccination is a three-dose schedule offered over a period of six months, in a vaccination programme which started in September 2008. Provisional data at the end of February 2009 is shown in the following tables.

Cohort 1: Routine 12-13 year olds school year 8

		Doses given since 1 September 2008					
		Dose 1		*Dose 1 and 2*		*All 3 Doses*	
	Total number in Cohort 1	*Number*	*Percentage*	*Number*	*Percentage*	*Number*	*Percentage*
Sunderland Teaching Primary Care Trust (PCT)	1,619	1,502	92.8	1468	90.7	0	0
England	308,000	259,554	84.3	240,950	78.2	810	0.3

Cohort 2: Catch-up 17-18 year olds school year 13

		Doses given since 1 September 2008					
		Dose 1		*Dose 1 and 2*		*All 3 Doses*	
	Total number in Cohort 2	*Number*	*Percentage*	*Number*	*Percentage*	*Number*	*Percentage*
Sunderland Teaching PCT	1,811	595	32.9	79	4.4	0	0
England	322,058	129,627	40.2	88,397	27.4	247	0.1

HPV vaccine uptake information is provided monthly by PCTs and is published on the website:

www.immunisation.nhs.uk

The provisional data for all PCTs in England at the end of February 2009 has been placed in the Library.

Influenza

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will place in the Library a copy of the illustrative assessment of the impact of an influenza pandemic on the economy referred to on pages 21 to 22 of his Department's national framework for responding to an influenza pandemic. [245630]

Yvette Cooper: I have been asked to reply.

Estimates of the economic impact of influenza pandemic on the economy are conditional on what assumptions are made regarding the severity and duration of the pandemic.

Learning Disability: Finance

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent representations he has received from local authorities on the transfer of learning disability commissioning funds from primary care trusts to local authorities. [268657]

Phil Hope: All areas (primary care trusts and local authorities) have made a return. Some areas made provisional returns by the 1 December 2008 deadline. 70 per cent. made complete or nearly complete returns. We will consider all replies that have been submitted by the expiry date of 31 March 2009.

Maternity Services

Anne Milton: To ask the Secretary of State for Health from which primary care trusts his Department has *(a)* sought and *(b)* received assurances in relation to the delivery of the guarantees made in "Maternity Matters" by December 2009. [268152]

Ann Keen: As part of the planning process for 2009-10, the Department has written to all strategic health authorities (SHAs) seeking assurances about the delivery by the end of 2009 of the "Maternity Matters" commitments. This information is currently being reviewed with SHAs.

A copy of "Maternity Matters" has already been placed in the Library.

Mental Health: Cannabis

Mr. Walker: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many *(a)* teenagers and *(b)* people were admitted to psychiatric units for mental health problems associated with cannabis use in each of the last 15 years. [267652]

Dawn Primarolo: Data on the number of finished admission episodes as a result of cannabis use for teenagers (aged 12 to 19 years) and those persons aged over 20 years for each year since 1995-96 are in the following table.

Count of finished admission episodes with a primary diagnosis of mental and behavioural disorders due to use of cannabinoids and where consultant main specialty was a mental health specialty: activity in national health service hospitals and NHS commissioned activity in the independent sector

	Age Group			
	Aged 12-19	*Aged 20 and over*	*Age not known*	*All ages*
1995-96	66	419	4	489
1996-97	58	380	3	441
1997-98	74	342	1	417
1998-99	86	448	1	535
1999-2000	89	423	—	512
2000-01	87	407	—	494
2001-02	111	472	—	583
2002-03	103	515	—	618
2003-04	148	614	—	762
2004-05	133	619	—	752
2005-06	122	663	1	786
2006-07	97	505	14	616
2007-08	99	480	—	579

Notes:

1. A finished admission episode is the first period of in-patient care under one consultant within one health care provider. Finished admission episodes are counted against the year in which the admission episode finishes. Admissions do not represent the number of in-patients, as a person may have more than one admission within the year.
2. Diagnosis (Primary Diagnosis): The primary diagnosis is the first of up to 14 (seven prior to 2002-03) diagnosis fields in the Hospital Episode Statistics (HES) dataset and provides the main reason why the patient was in hospital. ICD10 Code used = F12 Mental and behavioural disorders due to use of cannabinoids (including cannabis).
3. Consultant Main Specialty: This defines the specialty under which the consultant responsible for the care of the patient at that time is registered. Care is needed when analysing HES data by specialty, or by groups of specialties (such as 'acute'). Trusts have different ways of managing specialties and attributing codes so it is better to analyse by specific diagnoses, operations or other patient or service information.
4. Counts are restricted to the following consultant main specialties:

710 = Mental illness
711 = Child and adolescent psychiatry
712 = Forensic psychiatry
713 = Psychotherapy
715 = Old age psychiatry (available from 1990-91)

Source:

Hospital Episode Statistics (HES), The NHS Information Centre for health and social care

NHS: Civil Proceedings

Mr. Ancram: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether he plans to reduce the amount of money available to the NHS in respect of legal actions. [268733]

Ann Keen: The Department has not issued guidance to primary care trusts on their expenditure on legal proceedings. Lord Justice Jackson is currently undertaking a review of the costs of civil litigation to ensure that they are appropriate and we will consider the results of the review when they are published later this year.

NHS: Finance

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate he has made of the cost to the NHS of follow-up care for procedures carried out *(a)* privately and *(b)* abroad in the latest period for which figures are available. [268408]

Mr. Bradshaw: The Department does not collect the information requested. Some national health service organisations may collect this data at a local level, so the hon. Member may wish to approach them for further information.

NHS: North Yorkshire

Mr. Grogan: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what the *(a)* target and *(b)* actual allocation for North Yorkshire and York Primary Care Trust is in 2009-10; [268631]

(2) if he will estimate the allocation to North Yorkshire and York Primary Care Trust in 2008-09 under the terms of the funding formula adopted for 2009-10. [268634]

Mr. Bradshaw: The target allocation for the North Yorkshire and York primary care trust (PCT) for 2009-10, as determined by the weighted capitation formula is £1,103 million. The actual allocation the PCT will receive in 2009-10 is £1,077 million. The North Yorkshire and York PCT will be 2.4 per cent. under target in 2010-11.

The funding formula is used to determine PCTs' target allocations. Actual allocations to PCTs depend also on pace of change policy—how additional funding is distributed to move PCTs towards their target allocations. It is therefore not possible to say what actual allocations would have been in 2008-09 under the terms of the funding formula adopted in 2009-10.

NHS: Professional Discretion

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will review each directive which have been issued by his Department to *(a)* primary care trusts, *(b)* NHS hospital trusts, *(c)* other NHS trusts and *(d)* strategic health authorities and remains in force in order to establish the scope for extending professional discretion. [265597]

Ann Keen: The Government's strategy for empowering national health service staff, giving them the freedom to use their talents to drive up quality, was set out in the final report of the NHS Next Stage Review, High Quality Care for All, published last summer. The measures set out in the report are now being taken forward in discussion with the service.

Obesity

Mr. Austin Mitchell: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what discussions he has had with the Chancellor of the Exchequer on the effect on the Government's obesity reduction strategy of the inclusion of specially-formulated, very low diet products within the category of foods which are liable for value added tax at the standard rate; and if he will make a statement. [268217]

Dawn Primarolo: The Secretary of State for Health has regular discussions with the Chancellor of the Exchequer. All taxes are kept under review and are a matter for the Chancellor.

Obesity: Surgery

Paul Farrelly: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what designated centres for obesity surgery have been approved by the NHS's specialised commissioning groups in *(a)* the West Midlands, *(b)* London, *(c)* East of England, *(d)* the North East, *(e)* the North West, *(f)* South Central, *(g)* the South East Coast, *(h)* the South West, *(i)* Yorkshire and Humber and *(j)* the East Midlands. [268067]

Dawn Primarolo: The Department does not collect this data.

Pests

Joan Walley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment he has made of the merits of *(a)* collecting information on pest vectors and *(b)* developing capacity to identify pest-related risks in the urban environment. [268193]

Dawn Primarolo: The Department considers that there is merit in a 'risk-based' approach to gathering information on pest vectors, and we have in place in England (and across the United Kingdom) the necessary capability to identify and assess the risks posed by pest vectors in the urban environment, together with the appropriate infrastructure and capacity for a coordinated approach to the control and management of such risks.

Pregnancy: Costs

Mr. Randall: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the estimated cost to the NHS was of providing services to expectant mothers aged *(a)* under 18 and *(b)* 18 years or over throughout their pregnancies in the latest period for which figures are available. [268590]

Ann Keen: Information is not available in the format requested. I also refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave on 17 March 2009, *Official Report*, column 1027W.

Prescriptions: Fees and Charges

Mrs. Riordan: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what conditions provide grounds for exemption from prescription charges; when the list of such conditions was *(a)* first established and *(b)* last revised; and whether he expects further revisions to be made to the list in 2009. [267074]

Dawn Primarolo: The original list of medical conditions that give exemption from prescription charges was introduced in 1968. Treatment for cancer has been inserted into the regulations as a new condition entitling people to exemption from prescription charges; this amendment will come into force on 1 April 2009. Otherwise, the qualifying criteria for medical exemptions has not been revised since 1968. This fulfils the Prime Minister's commitment that cancer patients would be exempted from prescription charges from 2009.

The Government have also set out their intention to abolish prescription charges for people with long term conditions over the next few years. The President of the Royal College of Physicians (Professor Ian Gilmore) has been asked to carry out a review of prescription charges that will consider how to implement this commitment. The review is due to reports its recommendations to departmental Ministers in summer 2009.

Pressure Sores

Anne Milton: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many recorded complaints about pressure sores were made to *(a)* hospitals, *(b)* primary care trusts and *(c)* strategic health authorities in each of the last five years. [268813]

Ann Keen: This information is not collected centrally.

Primary Care Trusts: Manpower

Ben Chapman: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the average staff-to-patient ratio in primary care trusts is; and what the ratio is for Wirral Primary Care Trust. [268352]

Ann Keen: This information is not collected centrally.

Sexually Transmitted Infections: Hillingdon

Mr. Randall: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many people were diagnosed with each category of sexually-transmitted infection in the London Borough of Hillingdon in each of the last five years for which figures are available. [268587]

Dawn Primarolo: The data are not available in the format requested. Data are only available on the number of diagnoses of sexually transmitted infections (STIs) in genito-urinary medicine (GUM) clinics and only available by strategic health authority (SHA). The following table gives the number of diagnoses of new STIs in GUM in the London SHA between 2003 and 2007, the latest year for which figures are available.

	2003	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*
Primary and secondary infectious syphilis	731	852	889	821	972
Uncomplicated gonorrhoea	8,862	7,688	6,687	6,452	6,783
Uncomplicated genital Chlamydia	20,330	20,698	21,215	20,734	22,793
Anogenital herpes simplex: 1st attack	5,014	4,825	4,859	5,233	6,149
Anogenital warts: 1st attack	12,618	13,112	12,713	13,070	14,224

Notes:

1. The data available from the KC60 statutory returns are for diagnoses made in GUM clinics only. Diagnoses made in other clinical settings, such as general practice, are not recorded in the KC60 dataset.
2. The data available from the KC60 statutory returns are the number of diagnoses made, not the number of patients diagnosed.
3. The information provided has been adjusted for missing clinic data.
4. Data are unavailable for 2008.

Source:

Health Protection Agency, KC60 returns.

In addition to STIs diagnosed in a GUM clinic, the National Chlamydia Screening Programme (NCSP) provides Chlamydia screening to asymptomatic people under the age of 25 years in England. The NCSP was launched in 2003, when a phased implementation started.

The following table shows the number of diagnoses made of Chlamydia in patients between the ages of 15-24 years between April 2003 and December 2008 in London SHA and Hillingdon PCT.

Area	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*
London SHA	185	1,711	2,580	3,553	4,201	7,668
Hillingdon PCT	[1]—	[1]—	19	40	30	150

[1] Cell size of 1 to 4 has been masked to protect deductive disclosure in accordance with Office for National Statistics guidelines.

Notes:

1. The NCSP has been phased in since 2003 with all 152 PCTs reporting data to the programme since March 2008. Therefore note that number of diagnoses have risen substantially as an increasing proportion of the target population have been tested.
2. NSCP data are presented by PCT of residence.
3. The data from the NCSP Core Dataset are for Chlamydia screens conducted within the NCSP outside of GUM clinics only.
4. The data available from the NCSP are the number of diagnoses made and not the number of patients diagnosed.
5. Data includes Chlamydia tests for males, females and those with unknown/unspecified sex.
6. Data presented are based on tests with confirmed positive diagnoses only.

Source:

National Chlamydia Screening Programme Core Dataset.

Systemic Lupus Erythematosus

Mrs. Dean: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the incidence of systemic lupus erythematosus was in the last 12 months. [267575]

Ann Keen: This information is not collected centrally.

Thalidomide: Disability Aids

Mr. Todd: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many people affected adversely by thalidomide have been provided with assistance dogs. [268191]

Dawn Primarolo: This information is not collected centrally. Assistance dogs for the disabled are provided through voluntary sector organisations.

Tuberculosis: Health Services

Mr. Sharma: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will commission an independent external assessment of NHS strategy in respect of services for the diagnosis and treatment of tuberculosis. [268071]

Dawn Primarolo: The Chief Medical Officer's Action Plan for tuberculosis (TB) was launched in October 2004, and the Department published a Toolkit in June 2007 to help the national health service to implement the key points of the action plan through effective commissioning and delivery of services, and this was backed up with a series of regional workshops for commissioners, public health professionals and clinical staff. The Toolkit recommends that TB services should always follow the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE) clinical guidelines, published in March 2006, when treating patients. As an independent body, NICE reviewed available evidence to make recommendations on best clinical practice.

The Healthcare Commission (Care Quality Commission from 1 April 2009) is an independent body which assesses how the NHS implements delivery of services, including TB services, and whether best clinical practice as set out by NICE, is followed, as part of its Annual Health Check of NHS organisations. Changes in TB services in the NHS will take time to come into operation and it is too early to assess the impact of the action plan or whether the targets are being achieved.

Mr. Sharma: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what mechanisms are in place for the monitoring and evaluation of services provided for the diagnosis and treatment of tuberculosis (TB); and what steps are taken when primary care trusts do not provide adequate TB services. [268168]

Dawn Primarolo: The National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE) published their clinical guidelines on the diagnosis and management of tuberculosis (TB), and measures for its prevention and control, in March 2006. The Department published a Toolkit in June 2007 to help the national health service to implement the key points of the Chief Medical Officer's Action Plan "Stopping Tuberculosis in England" (October 2004) through effective commissioning and delivery of services. A copy of the plan has been placed in the Library. The Toolkit also recommends that TB services should always follow the NICE clinical guidelines when diagnosing and treating patients with TB.

The Healthcare Commission (Care Quality Commission from 1 April 2009), as part of its Annual Health Check of NHS organisations, monitors the implementation of NICE guidelines and assesses how the NHS implements delivery of services, including TB services. The organisation and running of local services are matters for local NHS management. Primary care trusts are responsible for procuring TB services to fit their local demography and incidence of TB in their area, and ensuring that those standards are monitored, met and reviewed as part of the commissioning process.

Mr. Sharma: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what assessment he has made of progress on prevention of tuberculosis in the last 12 months; [268169]

(2) what his Department's priority milestones are for reducing the incidence of tuberculosis in England in the next 12 months. [268170]

Dawn Primarolo: The Chief Medical Officer's Action Plan "Stopping Tuberculosis in England", a copy of which has already been placed in the Library, sets out our aim of reducing the risk of people being newly infected with tuberculosis (TB) in England. Early detection of cases and completion of treatment are both necessary to reduce the number of new cases. In order to achieve this, the Department has provided guidance and tools to help the national health service commission TB services best suited to local needs, and deliver services according to best practice.

The Department is funding complementary work to raise awareness of TB among health care professionals and groups within the population at increased risk of TB. In addition, the Department continues to fund specific interventions aimed at improving TB control, such as the Find and Treat programme in London, which helps local TB services improve active case finding and completion of treatment, and will make the evaluations available to the NHS.

The number of cases of TB, and the rates of TB per 100,000 population for England are shown in the following table:

	TB cases	*TB rates*
2006	7,862	15.5
2007 (latest confirmed data)	7,742	15.2

Vaccination

Mark Pritchard: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps his Department is taking to monitor the incidence of acute disseminated encephalomyelitis after vaccination. [268385]

Dawn Primarolo: Acute Disseminated Encephalomyelitis (ADEM) is an extremely rare neurological condition thought to be caused by a range of viral infections. Although ADEM has been reported in temporal association with several vaccines, there is a lack of good scientific evidence to show that routine vaccination is causally-associated with ADEM.

As with all pharmaceutical products used in the United Kingdom, the Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA) keeps the safety of vaccines under close review. This includes monitoring reports of suspected adverse reactions (ADRs), spontaneously provided by health professionals and patients through the 'Yellow Card Scheme'. Since 1968, the MHRA has received 10 Yellow Card reports of suspected ADEM in association with vaccinations given in the UK (see following table). Many millions of people have been exposed to these vaccines over this time period and the benefits far outweigh the risks.

It is important to bear in mind that reports submitted via the 'Yellow Card Scheme' relate only to suspicions that a vaccine or medicine may have caused a medical condition. Reports may also relate to coincidental events due to underlying or undiagnosed illness. Such reports are therefore not proof of a causal association. It is also not possible to ascertain the number of people who may have suffered an adverse event following vaccination using data from the Yellow Card Scheme. This is because reporting is voluntary and the level of under-reporting is unknown. For these reasons, it is not possible to assess the number of cases of ADEM following vaccination using the Yellow Card Scheme.

Reports of ADEM in association with vaccines

Vaccine	*Number of Yellow Card reports*
Diphtheria Tetanus Pertussis (wholecell)	1
Hepatitis A vaccine	1
Influenza vaccine	1
Japanese encephalitis vaccine	1
Measles and rubella vaccine	1
Meningococcal vaccine	1
Rabies vaccine	1
Typhoid vaccine	2
Pneumococcal vaccine	1

Waltham Forest Primary Care Trust

Harry Cohen: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what arrangements have been made for the employment, pay and conditions of community health workers employed by Waltham Forest Primary Care Trust following its conversion to a purely commissioning organisation. [268394]

Ann Keen: On 1 April 2009, Waltham Forest Primary Care Trust (PCT) became one of the first PCTs in England to take the step to become a solely commissioning organisation. The Waltham Forest community services have transferred to Outer North East London Community Services which has been formed by bringing together the provider arms of Waltham Forest, Redbridge and Havering PCTs. We are advised by London Strategic Health Authority that all staff have been transferred into Outer North East London Community Services on their existing terms and conditions of service.

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Community Relations: Greater London

Mr. Evennett: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much was provided to each London local authority for community cohesion projects in the last period for which figures are available. [266904]

Mr. Khan: From April 2008 cohesion funding forms part of an authority's Area Based Grant, and was allocated directly to those authorities in greatest need. Authorities have the flexibility to use this funding as they see fit enabling them to decide where best to invest their resources in the most effective and efficient routes to delivering local priorities.

Allocations for London local authorities in 2008-09

	Funding (£)
Greenwich	26,471
Hammersmith and Fulham	26,471
Tower Hamlets	49,412
Barking and Dagenham	116,471
Bexley	26,471
Croydon	26,471
Ealing	26,471
Havering	49,412
Hillingdon	49,412
Hounslow	26,471
Newham	72,353
Redbridge	49,412
Waltham Forest	26,471

Council Housing: Rents

Mr. Burstow: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the Answer of 18 March 2009, *Official Report*, columns 1171-72W, on council housing: rents, if she will make it her policy to fund fully the cost of halving the guideline rent increase for local authority tenants for each participating local authority; and if she will make a statement. [267232]

Mr. Iain Wright: We would expect those councils that decide to reduce their rents would pass in full the impact of halving of the guideline rent increase, with the compensating subsidy adjustment, to council tenants. The Department has written to local authorities outlining the next steps in the process. We would expect councils to be able to cover their costs from their housing revenue account allowances.

Departmental Conferences

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) what expenditure under what budgetary headings her Department incurred in relation to its Arms-Length Bodies in Finance Network event on 4 December 2008; [267941]

(2) what expenditure under what budgetary headings her Department incurred in relation to the meeting of the Regional Ministers Economic Delivery Group on 8 December 2008; [267942]

(3) the cost of her Department's Housing and Planning Expert Panels Seminar held on 26 September 2008 was, broken down by category of expenditure; [267981]

(4) what expenditure under what budgetary headings her Department incurred in relation to its Regional Ministers Economic Delivery Group held on 17 November 2008; and if she will provide a breakdown of the costs; [267982]

(5) what expenditure under what budgetary headings her Department incurred in relation to its Housing Roundtable seminar held on 26 and 27 February 2009; [267988]

(6) what expenditure under what budgetary headings her Department incurred in relation to its Regeneration in Recession seminar held on 18 February 2009; [267989]

(7) what expenditure under what budgetary headings her Department incurred in relation to its Regional Minister Economic Delivery Group meeting on 9 February 2009; [267990]

(8) what expenditure under what budgetary headings her Department incurred in relation to its Homeowner Mortgage Support Scheme development workshop held on 5 February 2009; [267991]

(9) what expenditure under what budgetary headings her Department incurred in relation to its Planning and the Economy workshop held on 28 January 2009; [267992]

(10) what expenditure under what budgetary headings her Department incurred in relation to its Migration and Economic Downturn seminar held on 23 January 2009; [267993]

(11) what expenditure under what budgetary headings her Department incurred in relation to its Home Builders Federation seminar held on 7 January 2009; [267994]

(12) what expenditure under what budgetary headings her Department incurred in relation to its regional improvement efficiency partnerships worklessness event held on 24 November 2008. [267995]

Mr. Khan: The total expenditure for these 12 events is listed in the following table. These cover refreshments on the day of the event, travel for some of the invitees or speakers and room hire where events were hosted externally.

Summits, conferences and seminars on the economic situation hosted by Communities and Local Government since January 2008

Date he[illegible]	*Title*	*Description*	*Cost (£)*	*Budget headings*
26 September 2008	Analysis Week - Housing and Planning Expert Panels Seminar	Series of short presentations on how housing and planning mitigates against economic downturns – past successes and failures, international comparisons, short and long term options	10,976	Speakers
			234	Hospitality
17 November 2008	Regional Ministers Economic Delivery	Group Membership and TOR; Current Economic Climate and Impact on Region; Regional Update by EDG Group members; Infrastructure/Capital projects – setting out criteria for regional priorities	20	Hospitality
24 November 2008	RIEP - Worklessness event	Joint workshop between GOYH and Local Government Yorkshire and the Humber (RIEP funding), to share good practice and for local partners to network. A presentation on the current economic climate and update on the Houghton Review was followed by workshops on what was happening in local economies and what needed to be done.	325	Hospitality
			850	Facilitation
4 December 2008	Arms-Length bodies in Finance Networking Event	Networking event for senior finance managers in Communities and Local Government and it's arms-length bodies looking at the impact of the current economic climate on business areas	366	Hospitality
8 December 2008	Regional Ministers Economic Delivery Group	Regional Intelligence Report; Pre Budget Report; Housing in Yorkshire and the Humber; Tackling Rising Unemployment; Communications Plan	20	Hospitality
7 January 2009	Home Builders Federation Seminar	Purpose of the seminar was to facilitate a wider stakeholder discussion about the house-building sector with a particular focus on the impact of new regulations on the sector.	156	Hospitality
23 January 2009	Migration and the Economic Downturn Seminar	Seminar focusing on: (i) the impacts of the economic downturn on international migration into the UK and (ii) The potential impacts on regional economic performance of a fall in net migration	98	Hospitality
28 January 2009	Planning and the Economy Workshop	Joint CLG/Whitehall in Industry Group (WIG) workshop focussing on what the land use planning system can do to aid economic recovery; on mitigating the effects of climate change; and on delivering truly sustainable development.	990	Delegate costs
			975	Hospitality
5 February 2009	Homeowners Mortgage Support scheme -development workshop	One day workshop with lenders and money advice agencies to agree the implementation plans for the Homeowners Mortgage Support Scheme	8,200	Hospitality and Room Hire
9 February 2009	Regional Ministers Economic Delivery Group	Regional intelligence Report; Regional response to redundancies; Business Support Measures; Public Sector Capital Investment	919	Hospitality and Room Hire
18 February 2009	Regeneration in Recession	Internal seminar with Professor Ian Gordon and Professor Henry Overman from the Spatial Economic Research Centre, to discuss the spatial implications of the recession and whether the core principles underpinning the government's approach to regeneration were still fit for purpose	0	—

Summits, conferences and seminars on the economic situation hosted by Communities and Local Government since January 2008

Date held	*Title*	*Description*	*Cost (£)*	*Budget headings*
26 February 2009	Housing Roundtable	Seminar examining housing markets and the downturn	340	Travel
27 February 2009	Housing Roundtable	Seminar examining housing markets and the downturn	81	Hospitality

Departmental Training

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much has been spent on media training for each Minister in her Department in each of the last three years; how many sessions have been provided; and which organisations provided such training. [268553]

Mr. Khan: Training is provided to Ministers as necessary in order to carry out their duties effectively under the Ministerial Code.

Eco-towns: St. Austell

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much funding the promoters of the St Austell eco-town development have applied for under the Community Infrastructure Fund; and when a decision on the application is expected. [265283]

Margaret Beckett: I refer the hon. Member to my statement of 27 March 2009, *Official Report*, column 29WS in which I and my hon. Friend, the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Transport announced the funding being made available from the Community Infrastructure Fund (CIF). This lists the projects that were successful in securing funding from CIF. Private sector promoters, such as those leading the St. Austell eco-town proposal are not eligible to bid into this scheme.

Fire Services

Mr. Dismore: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many road traffic accidents which resulted in a person requiring extrication from a vehicle the Fire and Rescue Service attended in *(a)* each fire authority area and *(b)* each region in each of the last three years. [268044]

Mr. Khan: The number of road traffic collisions attended by each Fire and Rescue Service where people were extricated from vehicles are shown in the table for each of the last three years and with regional totals.

Road traffic incidents attended with extrications of persons from vehicles

Fire and rescue authority	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*
England[1]	10,006	9,336	9,330
Cleveland	69	59	70
County Durham and Darlington	140	137	140
Northumberland	69	63	54
Tyne and Wear	115	116	137
North West	1,034	982	938
Cheshire	209	180	150
Cumbria	102	131	104
Greater Manchester	295	282	288
Lancashire	278	258	270
Merseyside	150	131	126
Yorkshire and the Humber	882	813	923
Humberside	162	158	266
North Yorkshire	152	152	161
South Yorkshire	218	203	199
West Yorkshire	350	300	297
East Midlands	1,041	941	990
Derbyshire	209	200	193
Leicestershire	249	207	211
Lincolnshire	230	226	227
Northamptonshire	138	152	160
Nottinghamshire	215	156	199
West Midlands	11,078	10,220	10,876
Hereford and Worcester	230	243	243
Shropshire	106	100	84
Staffordshire	216	224	243
Warwickshire	181	173	146
West Midlands	335	373	326
East of England	1,531	1,185	1,417
Bedfordshire and Luton	120	119	122
Cambridgeshire	244	218	244
Essex	492	154	375
Hertfordshire	159	129	175
Norfolk	350	366	339
Suffolk	166	199	162
London	1,166	1,117	1,079
South East[1]	1,677	1,661	1,392
Buckinghamshire	183	178	184
East Sussex	153	175	243
Hampshire[2]	364	327	[2]—
Isle of Wight	30	23	25
Kent	308	326	315
Oxfordshire	111	107	140
Royal Berkshire	128	142	118
Surrey	224	186	189
West Sussex	176	197	178
South West	1,214	1,149	1,169
Avon	189	183	167
Cornwall	160	84	103
Devon[3]	193	207	—
Devon and Somerset[3]	—	—	363
Dorset	153	166	180
Gloucestershire	168	152	158
Somerset[3]	152	137	—

Road traffic incidents attended with extrications of persons from vehicles

Fire and rescue authority	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*
Wiltshire	199	230	198

[1] Data for 2007-08 not provided by Hampshire Fire and Rescue Service

[2] NP

[3] Prior to 2007-08 Devon and Somerset existed as separate Fire and Rescue Services

Fire Services: Injuries

Mr. Waterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many major injuries were sustained by firefighters in *(a)* Eastbourne and *(b)* East Sussex in each year of the last 10 years. [267211]

Mr. Khan: The numbers of injuries sustained by fire fighters in Eastbourne and East Sussex in each of the last 10 years which were reportable under the Health and Safety Executive's Reporting of Injuries, Diseases and Dangerous Occurrences Regulations 1995 are shown in the tables.

(a) RIDDOR[1] reportable injuries to firefighters, Eastbourne

	Number of 'over 3 day' injuries[2]	*Number of major[3] injuries*	*Number of fatal injuries*
1999-2000	2	1	0
2000-01	3	0	0
2001-02	4	0	0
2002-03	4	0	0
2003-04	9	0	0
2004-05	4	1	0
2005-06	2	1	0
2006-07	2	0	0
2007-08	2	0	0

[1] Reporting of Injuries, Diseases and Dangerous Occurrences Regulations (RIDDOR)

[2] Injuries which are not classified as 'major' but as a result of which an individual was off work or unable to do their full range of normal duties for more than three days

[3] Reportable major injuries include fracture other than to fingers, thumbs or toes, and dislocation of the shoulder, hip, knee or spine.

Source:

East Sussex Fire and Rescue Service.

(b) RIDDOR[1] reportable injuries to firefighters, East Sussex

	Number of 'over 3 day' injuries[2]	*Number of major injuries*	*Number of fatal injuries*
1999-2000	36	3	0
2000-01	17	6	0
2001-02	25	0	0
2002-03	19	2	0
2003-04	31	2	0
2004-05	13	1	0
2005-06	11	4	0
2006-07	12	1	1
2007-08	14	2	0

[1] Reporting of Injuries, Diseases and Dangerous Occurrences Regulations (RIDDOR)

[2] Injuries which are not classified as 'major' but as a result of which an individual was off work or unable to do their full range of normal duties for more than three days

[3] Reportable major injuries include fracture other than to fingers, thumbs or toes, and dislocation of the shoulder, hip, knee or spine.

Source:

East Sussex Fire and Rescue Service.

Gardens

Mr. Burstow: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government when she expects the review of the brownfield designation of garden land to be completed; and if she will make a statement. [267227]

Margaret Beckett: During the progress of the Planning Act 2008, the Government committed to review the evidence on the extent and impact of housing development on garden land in order to establish whether there was a genuine problem. This commitment was undertaken in the absence of firm evidence that a problem existed.

We propose to establish the amount of housing development on garden land, which at present cannot be distinguished from other land classified as "previously-residential" in the Land Use Change Statistics, such as estate regeneration or conversions.

The review will take place in two stages. The first stage will involve obtaining data directly from local planning authorities and the Planning Inspectorate. My Department will write to local planning authorities in England requesting data on the number of planning permissions granted or refused (including the outcomes of any associated appeals), from 1 April 2003 to 31 March 2008, for housing development within the curtilage of an existing dwelling house—but only where these permissions have, or will, result in a net increase in dwellings within the existing curtilage.

We have worked with the Planning Officers' Society and the Central Local Information Partnership in designing the process of data collection for the review to ensure it as straightforward for local authorities as possible.

We will exclude from the review details of regeneration or renewal schemes, as these could seriously distort the data. We will also exclude extensions to properties, as these do not lead to an increase in dwellings, and conversions, as these do not generally lead to a loss of land.

Authorities will also be asked to provide a commentary on the development plan policies they rely on to determine these type of applications, and information on whether they have identified gardens (either individually or through the identification of a broad location), through the plan led system, for future development.

Local authorities will also be given the opportunity to say whether garden development is or is not an issue for them in their area and why.

As part of the first stage we will also ask the Planning Inspectorate to provide information on the appeal decisions highlighted by planning authorities, to help establish the principal reasons why the decisions were granted.

For the second stage of the review, we will seek external analysis of the data collected from the first stage to determine the impact of the development. This will probably focus on a subset of authorities which will need to include authorities from each region, and an even mix of large and small authorities in both urban and rural areas. We will publish further details of the second stage of the review at the time. Subject to the response rate we receive to stage one of the review, our aim is to conclude the second stage by the summer.

The purpose of the review is to ascertain if there is clear and genuine problem with the extent of development on gardens. We are committed to considering action if the evidence discloses a problem, provided that any changes should not have the effect of undermining our objectives on housing.

We shall also be writing separately to Opposition spokespersons and hon. Members in England to bring the details of the review to their attention.

Homes and Communities Agency

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much the Homes and Communities Agency and its predecessor bodies spent on *(a)* renovation and *(b)* decoration in each of the last three years. [266189]

Margaret Beckett: The Homes and Communities Agency (HCA) has existed since 1 December 2008, and is responsible to Parliament for ensuring public funds are properly used. They are also subject to scrutiny by the National Audit Office and every year their annual report and accounts will be laid before Parliament.

Final audited information for the HCA for the year ending 31 March 2009 will be available after the end of the financial year.

The predecessor bodies for the HCA were English Partnerships, the investment arm of the Housing Corporation, and the Academy for Sustainable Communities. A range of programmes previously delivered by Communities and Local Government (CLG) also transferred to the agency.

Spend by predecessor bodies for the Housing Corporation and English Partnership on renovation and decoration is shown in the following table.

£000

	2005-06	*2006-07*	*2007-08*
Housing Corporation	130	90	40
English Partnership	660	450	200

The Academy for Sustainable Communities did not incur any expenditure on these items. The spend that related to CLG programmes that transferred to the agency cannot be disaggregated.

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) how much the *(a)* Homes and Communities Agency and *(b)* Tenants Service Authority have spent on (i) signage and (ii) stationery since their inception; [266198]

(2) how much *(a)* the Homes and Communities Agency and *(b)* the Tenants Service Authority have spent on media monitoring since their inception; [266195]

(3) how much the Homes and Communities Agency has spent on branding since its inception; and which companies were contracted to provide branding services. [266200]

Margaret Beckett: The following table shows the HCA and TSA's spend on signage and stationery, media monitoring and branding since their inception.

£000

	HCA	*TSA*
Signage	94	15
Stationery	99	17
Media Monitoring	6	11
Branding	58	[1]

[1] For TSA branding costs I refer the hon. Member to the answer given to the hon. Member for Meriden (Mrs. Spelman) on 29 January 2009, *Official Report*, column 764W.

The development of the HCA brand was delivered through the Central Office of Information.

The Homes and Communities Agency (HCA), and Tenants Service Authority (TSA) are responsible to Parliament for ensuring public funds are properly used. They are also subject to scrutiny by the National Audit Office and every year their annual report and accounts will be laid before Parliament.

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much the *(a)* Tenants Service Authority and *(b)* Homes and Communities Agency have spent on public affairs consultancy since their establishment. [266192]

Margaret Beckett: Since their establishment the TSA, to date, have been invoiced for approximately £68,000 and the HCA nil. The HCA and TSA are responsible to Parliament for ensuring public funds are properly used. They are also subject to scrutiny by the National Audit Office and every year their Annual Report and Accounts will be laid before Parliament.

Housing Revenue Accounts

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what proportion of the Housing Revenue Account's annual income was derived from rent *(a)* from dwellings and *(b)* sources other than dwellings in each year since 1997. [266601]

Mr. Iain Wright: The proportion of income since 1997 in England from rents and other sources is given in the following table:

Percentage

Financial year	*Rent from dwellings*	*Income from land and non-dwelling buildings etc.*	*Income from services provided by authority*
1997-98	93.81	2.41	3.78
1998-99	93.63	2.40	3.97
1999-2000	93.60	2.57	3.83
2000-01	93.17	2.62	4.20
2001-02	92.94	2.69	4.37
2002-03	92.27	2.77	4.97
2003-04	91.34	2.78	5.88
2004-05	89.67	2.81	7.51
2005-06	89.63	2.81	7.56
2006-07	89.57	2.79	7.64
2007-08	89.11	2.73	8.16

This information is drawn from information provided by local authorities in year for Housing Revenue Account subsidy purposes.

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what expenditure under what main budget headings was incurred on the spending on supervision and management out of the Housing Revenue Account for the last financial year for which figures are available. [266602]

Mr. Iain Wright: Details for 2007-08 (the latest year for which we have figures) are shown in the following table.

	£
Supervision, Management and Maintenance—General management[1]	1,672,300,202
Supervision, Management and Maintenance—Special services to tenants (gross expenditure)	715,655,298
Supervision, Management and Maintenance—Repairs and maintenance	1,536,[illegible],119

[1] Excludes rent rebate administration, which is accounted for in the General Fund.

This information is drawn from information provided by local authorities in year for Housing Revenue Account subsidy purposes.

Housing: Construction

Mr. Walker: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether the Government is on target to meet its aspiration of building three million new homes by 2020; and if she will make a statement. [267979]

Margaret Beckett: The Housing Green Paper, "Homes for the Future: more affordable, more sustainable", published in July 2007, set out the Government's ambition to increase housing supply.

The Government recognise that the current financial and economic conditions will make the achievement of their housing supply targets extremely challenging. But despite the difficult economic and financial conditions, long-term pressures on housing supply and affordability remain. We therefore remain committed to doing all we can to meet long-term demand and need for housing.

Housing: Low Incomes

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) how much she expects her Department to spend on the MyChoiceHomeBuy scheme in 2009-10; [268375]

(2) how much she expects her Department to spend on the OwnHome scheme in 2009-10. [268376]

Mr. Iain Wright: I refer the hon. Member to the answers given to him on 23 March 2009, *Official Report*, column 68W and 24 March 2009, *Official Report*, column 218W.

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the average price of a property purchased with assistance from the First Time Buyers Initiative has been; and if she will make a statement. [268377]

Mr. Iain Wright: To date, the average price of a home purchased under the FTBI programme is £186,000. This covers the period from the first purchase in December 2006 up to the end of February 2009.

Local Government Finance

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much funding has been provided to local authorities to support their work in helping eastern European migrants to return home or to find work in each year since 2004-05. [265487]

Margaret Beckett: In recognition of pressures on homelessness services caused by rough sleeping by Eastern European migrants, there has been additional funding to local authorities since 2004-05 as follows:

£257,000 Home Office Invest to Save funding to Westminster up to March 2006.

2006-07—£240,000 additional CLG Homelessness Grant funding to some London boroughs.

2007-08—£107,000 Home Office funding for Westminster's continuing work with A8s.

2008-09—£360,000 additional CLG Homelessness grant funding to some London boroughs.

This funding has been used to help tackle destitution among eastern European migrants and includes measures such as helping people return home or to find work. This is an important strand of our work towards ending rough sleeping by 2012 given that destitute A10 nationals are over-represented among rough sleepers.

In addition there has been £200,000 CLG funding to Homeless Link, the national umbrella organisation for the voluntary sector for 2007-08—2008-09, to co-ordinate work around Eastern European rough sleeping in London.

Communities and Local Government is investing £200 million through local authorities and the voluntary sector to tackle homelessness including rough sleeping.

Local Government Finance: Disadvantaged

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what assessment has been made of the likely effect on local authority expenditure of the proposed new duty for public authorities to help those from disadvantaged backgrounds. [262099]

Maria Eagle: I have been asked to reply.

In the New Opportunities white paper in January, the Government proposed

> "a new strategic duty on central departments and key public services to address the inequality that arises from socioeconomic disadvantage".

In line with that proposal, the Government have since been consulting a wide range of interested parties, including local authorities, to determine how such a duty might be best designed and implemented, and what implementation costs, if any, might be involved.

No decisions have yet been made in regard to the proposed duty, and the discussions with key stakeholders are ongoing.

National Housing and Planning Advice Unit

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if she will place in the Library a copy of the minutes of each meeting of the National Housing and Planning Advice Unit's board in the last 12 months. [262100]

Margaret Beckett: The discussions had at NHPAU Board meetings were held in confidence and relate to advice to Ministers. The NHPAU will be publishing summaries of board discussions and outcomes of meetings on its website as a matter of course in the near future.

Non-Domestic Rates: Business

Tony Lloyd: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government for what reasons the Transitional Relief Scheme is not to be renewed; what assessment she has made of the effect on small businesses of the discontinuation of the scheme; and what representations she has received on the matter from representatives of businesses. [268462]

John Healey: The 2005 transitional relief scheme was introduced as part of the 2005 business rate revaluation and was limited in regulations to four years. The reasons for adopting a four year scheme were set out in the consultation document National Non Domestic Rates Transitional Arrangements: Consultation, August 2004. The effect on businesses was set out in a regulatory impact assessment on the regulations published at the same time. We have received a number of representations from businesses and local authorities on rate bills for 2009-10. The next revaluation will take effect from 1 April 2010 and include anew transitional arrangements scheme.

As the Government announced on 31 March, those businesses facing an increase in their business rates bill for 2009-10 as a result of the end of transitional relief will be able to defer payment of 60 per cent. of their increase until 2010-11 and 2011-12.

Railways: East of England

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if she will have discussions with the Department for Transport on the implications for regional spatial and economic strategies of the proposed East-West rail project. [267680]

Mr. Iain Wright: Officials from the Department of Communities and Local Government and the Department for Transport have, and will continue to hold, regular discussions on the development of regional strategies and both the east of England and the south-east of England Government offices will continue to discuss this proposal with relevant Departments and stakeholders.

The Government office for the south-east has engaged in ongoing discussions with the Department for Transport in preparing the proposed changes to the south-east regional spatial strategy.

Regional Spatial Strategies

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what powers she has in respect of the *(a)* amendment and *(b)* revocation of regional spatial strategies. [268839]

Mr. Iain Wright: The Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act (2004) provides the Secretary of State with powers to [amendments in brackets]:

Amendment of RSS

> Section 9 (3) states:
>
> If after proceeding under subsection (1) or (2) the Secretary of State proposes to make any changes to the draft [s]he must publish—
>
> (a) the changes [s]he proposes to make;
>
> (b) [her] his reasons for doing so.
>
> Section 9 (6) states:
>
> The Secretary of State must then publish—
>
> (a) the revision of the RSS incorporating such changes as [s]he thinks fit;
>
> (b) [her]his reasons for making the changes.

Revocation of RSS

> Section 10 (5) states:
>
> If the Secretary of State thinks it necessary or expedient to do so [s]he may at any time revoke—
>
> (a) an RSS;
>
> (b) such parts of an RSS as [s]he thinks appropriate.

Rented Housing

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many *(a)* local authority tenants and *(b)* housing association tenants there are in each local authority area in England. [266148]

Mr. Iain Wright: Figures are recorded as social housing stock rather than tenants.

Information on local authority (LA) owned housing stock is collected from local authorities on the Housing Strategy Statistical Appendix (HSSA) return. This information is recorded as at 1 April and is published on the Communities and Local Government website in Table 116:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/documents/housing/xls/140882.xls

Information on registered social landlord's (RSL) stock is collected through the Tenant Services Authority's Regulatory and Statistical Return (RSR) and is recorded as at 31 March.

A table showing LA housing stock and RSL housing stock in each local authority area in England has been deposited in the Library. Information is for 2008, the most recent year available.

Figures for RSLs are for social housing stock owned in England only and include general needs, supported housing and housing for older people accommodation. Both self-contained units and bed spaces are included because a split for local authority areas is not available.

Sheltered Housing

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many sheltered housing schemes have employed a *(a)* full-time and *(b)* part-time warden in each of the last five years. [268475]

Mr. Iain Wright: The Department for Communities and Local Government does not collect data on numbers of wardens employed in Sheltered Housing Schemes. The provision of non statutory sheltered housing schemes and the employment of wardens within those schemes is a matter for local authorities and other providers of Sheltered Housing.

Social Rented Housing

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the average social housing monthly rent has been in each year since 1997 at 2008-09 prices. [266479]

Mr. Iain Wright: Average rent data are collected as weekly average rent rather than monthly average rent. Average rent data are collected from local authorities on the HRA second advance subsidy form. Stock figures from the HRA second base form are used to calculate weighted averages at county, regional and national level.

Registered social landlord (RSL) average rents data are provided by the Tenants Services Authority collected via the annual Regulatory and Statistical Return (RSR). Data are not available for 2008-09. These data are available on the CLG website in live table 703:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/documents/housing/xls/141440.xls

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the average central government subsidy per social housing tenant was in each region in each year since 1997 at 2008-09 prices. [266490]

Mr. Iain Wright: This information is not held by the Department and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Social Rented Housing: Finance

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what percentage of her Department's social rented programme budget for 2010-11 has been brought forward for use in 2008-09 and 2009-10; and if she will make a statement. [268600]

Mr. Iain Wright: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave to him on 23 March 2009, *Official Report*, column 78W.

Written Questions: Government Responses

Mr. Paul Goodman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government when she plans to answer Question 245558, tabled on 18 December 2008, on Government plans to promote the UK as a standard setter for Islamic studies outside the Islamic world. [268606]

Mr. Khan: Question 245558 was transferred to my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills on 12 January 2009 with the agreement of that Department.

Ministerial Corrections

Tuesday 24 March 2009

WORK AND PENSIONS

Draft Financial Assistance Scheme and Incapacity Benefit (Miscellaneous Amendments) Regulations 2009

Ms Winterton: I thank the hon. Members for Edinburgh, West and for South-West Bedfordshire for their support for such important regulations. Let me address the issue of Northern Ireland. A corresponding provision will be made to cover people in Northern Ireland. As for how many people will benefit from the regulations, it is hard to estimate. We expect the numbers to be very low. None the less, I take seriously the comment of the hon. Member for South-West Bedfordshire that even for one person, this could make an important difference. Currently, there are more than 100 people receiving reduced ill-health payments. We expect only a small percentage of those people to meet the criteria for severe ill-health payments. In addition, those benefiting from the new provisions will include a small number of people who are not currently eligible for reduced ill-health payments because, for instance, they are more than five years from their normal retirement age.

[Official Report, 17 March 2009, Tenth Delegated Legislation Committee c. 6.]

Letter of correction from Ms Rosie Winterton:

An error has been identified in the debate on the Draft Financial Assistance Scheme and Incapacity Benefit (Miscellaneous Amendments) Regulations 2009 on 17 March 2009. The Minister stated:

Ms Winterton: ...Currently, there are more than 100 people receiving reduced ill-health payments.

The correct text should read:

Ms Winterton: ...Currently, just over 60 people are receiving reduced ill-health payments.

The error arose because although more than 100 people have met the qualifying criteria for ill health payments, just over 40 of them decided not to proceed because of the amount of the actuarial reduction.

Ministerial Correction

Wednesday 25 March 2009

TRANSPORT

High Speed Trains

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what changes to transport infrastructure will be required to accommodate the new high speed railway tracks by 2013. [263878]

[Official Report, 17 March 2009, Vol. 489, c. 988W.]

Letter of correction from Paul Clark:

An error has been identified in the written answer given to the hon. Member for Vale of York (Miss McIntosh) on 17 March 2009. The final paragraph of the original answer stated:

"In response to a letter dated 13 February from Sir David Rowlands, Chairman of High Speed Two, my noble Friend the Minister responsible for rail wrote to the company on 10 March setting out in more detail what the Government expect by the end of the year. Both letters have been placed in the Libraries of the House."

The correct answer should have been:

"In response to a letter dated 13 February from Sir David Rowlands, Chairman of High Speed Two, my noble Friend the Minister responsible for rail wrote to the company on 9 March setting out in more detail what the Government expect by the end of the year. Both letters have been placed in the Libraries of the House."

Ministerial Corrections

Friday 27 March 2009

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Departmental ICT

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what IT projects *(a)* his Department and *(b)* each of its agencies is undertaking; and what the most recent estimate of (i) the cost and (ii) the completion date of each is. [229162]

[Official Report, 12 November 2008, Vol. 482, c. 1226-1227W.]

Letter of correction from Huw Irranca-Davies:

An error has been identified in the table of the written answer given to the hon. Member for Fareham (Mr. Hoban) on 12 November 2008. The figure for RenewIT of £3,810,000 was incorrect and should have been £9,000,000.

The correct answer is as follows:

Huw Irranca-Davies: The following table details current major IT projects in DEFRA and its largest executive agencies, the Rural Payments Agency and Animal Health. The projects detailed are those which cost more than £1 million over the life of the project. Costs listed exclude day-to-day running costs after the completion of the project. Projects costing less than £1 million and those within smaller executive agencies have been excluded as data collection for these would incur a disproportionate cost to the Department to compile.

Project	*Expected completion date*	*Estimated costs (£)*
Animal Health Business Reform Programme	March 2011	98,000,000
Cap Health Check Implementation Programme	November 2009	25,300,000
Customer Land Database (CLAD)	October 2009	1,730,600
Enabling Technology	March 2009	4,223,000
INSPIRE/UK Location Strategy Implementation Programme	December 2012	12,800,000
RenewIT	March 2009	9,000,000
Rural Payments Agency Managed Document Service	March 2009	2,300,000
Rural Payments Agency Rural Land Register Upgrade	March 2012	23,000,000
Rural Payments Agency Single Payment System Upgrade (including CAP Health Check)	November 2009	23,700,000
Rural Payments Agency Storage Servers Upgrade	March 2010	3,400,000
Spatial Information Repository (SPIRE)	August 2009	14,965,000
Web Rationalisation	March 2011	1,440,000
Whole Farm Approach	March 2011	74,000,000

DEFENCE

SERCO

Mr. Flello: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the value was of his Department's contracts held with SERCO in each of the last five financial years. [253255]

[Official Report, 10 February 2009, Vol. 487, c. 1878W.]

Letter of correction from Bob Ainsworth:

An error has been identified in the table of the written answer given to the hon. Member for Stoke-on-Trent, South (Mr. Flello) on 10 February 2009. The 2007-08 figure of £763 million was incorrect and should have been £595 million.

The correct answer is as follows:

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The value of contracts with SERCO Group plc, in terms of spend, in each of the last five financial years was as follows:

	£ million
2003-04	244
2004-05	361
2005-06	431
2006-07	433
2007-08	595

The figures are shown exclusive of VAT rounded to the nearest million. They exclude any contracts placed by MOD Trading Funds or by British Defence staff (Washington) and low-value purchase transactions, for which records are not held centrally.

Ministerial Corrections

Wednesday 1 April 2009

TRANSPORT

Public Transport: Rural Areas

Sir Patrick Cormack: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what grants his Department and its predecessor provided to subsidise public transport in rural areas in England in *(a)* 2001, *(b)* 2005 and *(c)* 2008; and if he will make a statement. [250067]

[Official Report, 26 January 2009, Vol. 487, c. 11W.]

Letter of correction from Paul Clark:

The written answer given to the hon. Member for South Staffordshire (Sir Patrick Cormack) on 26 January 2009 contained a typographical error in the table detailing the total of grants paid to local authorities under the rural bus subsidy grant and the rural bus challenge. The figure given for the sum paid under the rural bus subsidy grant in 2008-09—£157 million—was incorrect.

The correct answer should have been.

Paul Clark: The annual totals of grants paid to local authorities under the rural bus subsidy grant (RBSG) and rural bus challenge (RBC) schemes for the relevant financial years are shown in the following table.

		£ million
	RBSG	*RBC*
2001-02	41.2	12.1
2005-06	53.0	12.3
2008-09[1]	[2]57.0	[3]2.0

[1] Paid to local authorities as part of their area-based grant.

[2] Allocation.

[3] Estimated.

In addition, local authorities support rural transport services using funds from the unhypothecated revenue support grant and local bus service operators, including those in rural areas, receive bus service operators grant from this Department.

Rural railways are funded as part of franchises covering both rural and urban areas or by grants to Network Rail which operates both rural and non rural railway. No separate figures are available for rural rail support.

TREASURY

Public Accounts

Mr. Hands: The Exchequer Secretary has mentioned 31 per cent. twice. Does that represent a decrease from a recent high or a decline over the course of the Government's tenure? Expenditure on consultants has dramatically increased since 1997.

[Official Report, 12 March 2009, Vol. 489, c. 520.]

Letter of correction from Angela Eagle:

An error has been identified in the original answer given to the hon. Member for Hammersmith and Fulham (Mr. Hands) on 12 March 2009. The original answer stated:

"The figure relates to the last Public Accounts Committee and National Audit Office report on the matter, which was published in 2001-02. I make that clear so that hon. Members are not under the wrong impression."

I should have said and intended to say:

Angela Eagle: The information was contained in a letter dated 11 March 2009 from the Chief Executive of the Office of Government Commerce to the hon. Member for Gainsborough. The reduction of consultancy spend of 31 per cent. was between 2005-06 and 2007-08. I make that clear so that hon. Members are not under the wrong impression.

Ministerial Corrections

Thursday 2 April 2009

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Local Government: Reorganisation

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many charters conferring the status of a borough have been granted by Her Majesty the Queen through the Privy Council Office since May 1997; and in which local authority areas such charters have been granted. [251775]

[Official Report, 2 February 2009, Vol. 487, c. 965W.]

Letter of correction from John Healey:

An error has been identified in the written answer given to the hon. Member for Brentwood and Ongar (Mr. Pickles), on 2 February 2009. The district of Welwyn Hatfield was omitted from the list of charters that have been granted since May 1997. The correct answer should have been:

John Healey: Nine Charters have been granted since May 1997 conferring borough status to the districts of Brighton and Hove, Medway, North Lincolnshire, Telford and Wrekin, Welwyn Hatfield, Wokingham, Cheshire West and Chester, West Lancashire and Cheshire East.

DUCHY OF LANCASTER

Third Sector Organisations

Ben Chapman: Does the Minister accept that the double whammy of the economic recession will mean not just reduced charitable donations, but the possibility of reduced lottery moneys for charities as a result of reduced ticket sales? Does he accept that children's hospices in particular and smaller charities in general will be particularly affected? Will he ensure that appropriate practical advice is given to both children's hospices and smaller charities so that they can weather the period of the recession?

Mr. Byrne: I congratulate my hon. Friend on the work that he does representing and speaking up for hospices in his constituency. The third sector and charities such as those that he alludes to go into the downturn in stronger health than ever before, because we have doubled public income to the third sector from £5.5 billion to £11 billion. We are determined to do more. That is why we are spending £500 million over the comprehensive spending review period, and why we are determined to bring forward reviews and reform of Gift Aid. The tax system is now worth £4 billion to charities. Where there are opportunities for us to bring public services, charities and voluntary groups closer together, and to use that strategy to strengthen charities, we will do that. That is why the Department of Health has asked Futurebuilders to manage £100 million-worth of investment in social enterprises over the next couple of years.

[Official Report, 1 April 2009, Vol. 490, c. 905.]

Letter of correction from Mr. Byrne:

An error has been identified in the oral response given to the hon. Member for Wirral, South (Ben Chapman), on 1 April 2009. The original answer referred to the fact that the tax system is worth £4 billion to charities. The correct figure for the amount the tax system is worth to charities is £3 billion.

Third Sector Organisations

Mr. Gary Streeter (South-West Devon) (Con): I commend the right hon. Gentleman for setting up the modernisation fund, which we have already heard about. In his discussions with the third sector—a perfectly sensible name, by the way—will he make it clear that in these straitened financial times he will give greater weight to organisations that show that they will collaborate and co-operate with other similar third sector organisations in their locality, so that some of the duplication and waste that we see in the third sector can be cut out?

Mr. Byrne:…. The hon. Member for South-West Devon (Mr. Streeter) is right. Very often it is smaller organisations that make the biggest difference to their communities. That is why we wanted to step up the amount of funding that goes through grassroots grants. In the hon. Gentleman's constituency, I understand that there are about nine organisations which receive about £27,000-worth of grassroots grants. Often those small amounts of money will make the world of difference, as he knows. When the Charity Commission recently asked the question of the sector—however we choose to define the sector—84 per cent. of respondents said that they were more interested in collaboration in the months to come. That is why the modernisation fund, which I am glad to be able to tell the House opens for business today, will provide £16.5 million not just to organisations seeking to merge and grow stronger, but to those that seek advice on how to collaborate more effectively in order to do the job that they are so passionate about.

[Official Report, 1 April 2009, Vol. 490, c. 906.]

Letter of correction from Mr. Byrne:

An error has been identified in the oral response given to the hon. Member for South-West Devon (Mr. Streeter), on 1April 2009. The modernisation fund opens for business at the end of April and not, as the original answer cited, on 1 April.